Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-178
Monday
14 September 1992

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FBIS-SOV-92-178 CONTENTS *14 September 1992*

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Yeltsin Reschedules ROK Visit; Could Meet Miyazawa on Okinawa

Amid the continuing controversy surrounding the cancellation of Boris Yeltsin's visits to Japan and the ROK, State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis told Moscow television that "an understanding has been reached between President No Tae-u and President Yeltsin that the visit...will take place on 12-13 November, and that all these ideas and tasks that we have been preparing for will reach their conclusion."

The possibility that Yeltsin could make a side trip to meet Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on "Okinawa island during his visit to South Korea in November" has been raised by Vice Premier Mikhail Poltoranin, according to ITAR-TASS. Poltoranin also pointed out that Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's "tough stance" during preparatory negotiations was the "last drop that tipped the balance in favor" of postponing Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo.

Russia Reportedly Destroys Nuclear Submarine Base in Estonia

"Russia has secretly destroyed and practically abandoned its large nuclear submarine base in Paldiski, Estonia," reports Stockholm radio. "Anything that could be sold at all has been taken and the rest has been smashed up." "Paldiski has been a bone of contention in the negotiations for a troop withdrawal. Should Russia give up its previous claim on the base, there will be a greater chance of finding a settlement acceptable to both sides."

Tajik Officials Deny Knowledge of Nabiyev's Whereabouts

"Leninabad Oblast authorities have stated that they know nothing about Rakhman Nabiyev, Tajikistan's former president, who is allegedly in the oblast, engaging in certain political activities," according to ITAR-TASS. "The spokesmen of the oblast soviet executive committee's press center gave assurances that Rakhman Nabiyev has not appeared in any of the mass media, has had no meetings with any officials, and has moreover not notified the oblast's leadership of his arrival in Khudzhand (the administrative center of Leninabad oblast)."

In another development, "the leaders of Kulyab Oblast, where the main stronghold of the former president's supporters is situated, have announced a general mobilization," reports Moscow radio.

Government Sets Deficit Target of R950 Billion

According to a Russian Government resolution on managing the budget for 1992, Russia's total budget expenditures will come to over 3.319 trillion rubles [R] and the "outside limit for the federal deficit should not be more than R950.1 billion," reports INTERFAX. Current budget expenditures "should" total R2.54 trillion. In the budget plan the government sent to the Supreme Soviet the budget deficit was set at R300 billion, but the Supreme Soviet "demanded an increase, insisting on additional subsidies for industry and social programs."

Russian, U.S. Statement on Biological Weapons

LD1409102892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Britain, the Russian Federation and the United States have adopted a joint statement on biological weapons as a result of meetings of senior officials of those countries, held in Moscow between September 10 and 11. The three governments reiterated their allegiance to the observance of the convention on biological weapons and voiced their agreement with the fact that their armies should not be equipped with biological weapons.

During the meetings the Russian Government announced that it had taken a number of measures to ease concern, connected with the implementation of the convention on biological weapons. The measures include the reduction by 50 per cent of the personnel involved in the fulfillment of military biological programmes and the reduction of the financing of biological research for military purposes by 30 per cent. It also pointed out that President Yeltsin had issued on April 11, 1992, a decree on ensuring the fulfillment of international commitments in the sphere of biological weapons.

The governments of the three countries agreed to create working groups, including experts, which will monitor the fulfillment of the convention on biological weapons. They will have the right to visit any military biological facility.

Draft CW Pact of 'Great Significance'

PM0809155092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Sep 92 p 3

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Press Service report: "All's Well That Ends Well"]

[Text] Work on the draft Convention on a Total Ban on the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction—work under way for 20 years—has been completed. The convention was approved at this year's last plenary session of the Disarmament Conference, held at the end of last week.

There is no doubt that this document will be a very important international act in the sphere of arms control. It will ban a whole class of weapons of mass destruction—and not only their use but also their storage and production. At the same time the convention provides for specific deadlines for destroying the existing stocks of chemical weapons and very strict control over the implementation of its requirements. It is also proposed to ease to some extent the financial burden on those countries that are to eliminate their means of chemical warfare. This is of special significance for Russia, which has particularly large stocks of combat toxins and, as is well known, is experiencing great economic difficulties today.

After the draft convention's approval at the Disarmament Conference, it will be forwarded for examination to the next session of the UN General Assembly, which is to open at the end of the month. Later the signing of this document will begin in Paris, obviously at the beginning of next year. It will enter into force after being signed and ratified by 65 participant states.

Despite the fact that, in the opinion of a number of countries, including Russia, the draft convention approved in Geneva suffers from a number of shortcomings, its adoption will be of very great significance for strengthening international security, eliminating the threat of war, and strengthening confidence among states.

Rome Meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh Ends in Failure

LD1209220392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0652 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome September 12 TASS—Another round of talks for preparing the Minsk international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh has ended here without reaching any particular results. This was announced by Kristian Ter-Stepanyan, head of the Armenian delegation, before leaving Rome, the ANSA news agency reports. According to Ter-Stepanyan, the Rome meeting "has actually ended in failure". He pointed out that Armenia could demand the interference of the Security Council in order to put an end to the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The fifth round of talks in Rome, which were unofficial this time and which ended without naming the date of the next round, did not make it possible to reached any agreement on a ceasefire in the conflict zone and on the participation in the talks of representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh, which proclaimed itself to be an independent republic.

"It is the Azeri delegation, which is to blame for the failure of the talks," Ter-Stepanyan said. He maintains Baku has rejected a ceasefire proposal, put forward by Chairman of the Minsk conference Mario Raffaelli, and continues to object to the granting of the status of a full-fledged participant in the talks to the delegation of the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Rome meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh, in which representatives of 11 countries took part, was started last June within the framework of preparations for the Minsk conference. After the end of the fourth round on August 5 the meeting was deadlocked. After that it was decided to hold another, unofficial round of talks early in September, hoping to find a way out of the situation.

Armenian Envoy on Deadlock

LD1209160392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tigran Liloyan and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—The CSCE conference in Minsk is deadlocked and has been practically frustrated, believes Kristian Ter-Stepanyan, head of the Armenian delegation at the Rome meeting to prepare the Minsk international conference of the CSCE on Karabakh settlement. He made this comment today in an ITAR-TASS interview on arrival from the Italian capital where he attended the fifth, unofficial stage of the forum.

The situation is not hopeless, he said. But international efforts are unlikely to bear results unless representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh can attend the Minsk forum as full-fledged members. The Armenian diplomat said the question of status of the delegation of Nagorno-Karabakh was not one of procedure but a political issue. Minsk must provide a forum for the possible dialogue between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, he continued.

According to the leader of the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation, Boris Arushanyan, the CSCE does not have a mechanism required to settle conflicts similar to the Karabakh problem. He spoke out in favour of "rapid interference" by other international organisations, particularly, the U.N. "We," said Arushanyan, "are not going to reject international mediation, but time passes and the war against Nagorno-Karabakh continues killing civilians."

The head of the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation called upon Russia to take "a more active part" in finding a solution to the Caucasus problems.

Azerbaijan Blamed for Failure

OW1409125592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aram Abramyan, deputy press secretary of the Armenian president, has told IF [INTERFAX] that Armenia lays the blame for the failure of the CSCE efforts to gain peace in Karabakh at the talks in Rome on Azerbaijan with its "destructive stance".

According to him, fire in Karabakh should be ceased without any preliminary conditions, such as those Azerbaijan insists upon: withdrawal of Armenian units from Shusha and Lachin. "If President Elchibey revises his attitude, the process of settlement in the CSCE framework might be resumed", said A. Abramyan.

In the meantime Armenia, he pointed out, intends to transfer the endeavors to resolve its conflict with Azerbaijan to the UN whose observers, and subsequently peace-keeping forces to be deployed on the border between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, should become the guarators of security. Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is in favor of this, said the press service spokesman.

Possible Meeting Between Yeltsin, Miyazawa in Nov

LD1409105792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—It is not ruled out that Russian President Boris Yeltsin may meet Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Okinawa island during his visit to South Korea in November, according to Russian Vice-Premier Mikhail Poltoranin.

Poltoranin made it clear that particulars of the "intermediary visit" would be worked out by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Poltoranin told ITAR-TASS that after his trip to Japan he had sent an official memo to the Russian president stressing that Russia should not transfer the Kuril islands to Japan.

According to Poltoranin, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's tough stance during his recent visit to Moscow was "the last drop" that tipped the balance in favour of putting off Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Kozyrev on Postponement of Yeltsin Visits

LD1109222692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Abakumov and Tavrovskiy; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abakumov] I think it would be natural to begin today's conversation, today's interview with Russian Television and Russian Radio, with the foreign minister by asking why he has postponed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visits to Japan and South Korea. As reported earlier, that decision was made at a session of the Security Council. It came as a bit of a surprise to many people. In this connection my first question is how, then, was the decision made?

[Kozyrev] There is more to the situation that just the visit, which does not exhaust foreign policy and does not exhaust the international agenda. Generally speaking, I do not think that there is any need to overdramatize this situation. This is basically a fairly common occurrence in international affairs. We are not the first to call off a visit, nor will we be the last. Visits are arranged, postponed, and cancelled. There is nothing terrible about that. Generally speaking, a visit at the summit level—especially a visit from one great country to another—can be compared with the launch of a spaceship. Just think how often space launches are postponed. Recommendations for the postponement of a launch are made by professionals. In this instance, we also supported this recommendation. It is better to postpone such events if, for example, the weather conditions are not entirely favorable, than to risk the possibility of failing to achieve the altitude which we set ourselves.

For the visit to Japan by Boris Nikolayevich we have set ourselves an extraordinarily high target. As of today, it is clear that both sides—I wish to stress this—both sides, for a number of reasons, both domestic and foreign, found themselves unprepared, at the moment, to achieve this altitude. We do not want a lower altitude. We will gain this altitude later. Talks on this are already under way.

The same also can be said of Korea. Of course, in the press and among public figures, as you know, various extreme assessments are being expressed. Unfortunately, some of our officials have not refrained from unbalanced and ill-considered statements. But in this case—I speak both as foreign minister and on the instructions of the president—our orientation is toward a progressive and stable development of relations. Preparations for the visit continue and relations between Russia and Japan are now normal, and we are not renouncing the aim of the visit taking place and relations being improved and so on.

Now, on the decision. There is, evidently, also some misunderstanding here. It is believed that this decision was made by the Security Council. This decision was made by the president, like all other major political decisions and like the decision on the visit, on its date, on that [word indistinct] which was established. This is all done by the president. We have a presidential foreign policy. Of course, it takes into account the opinion, uh, the position, the opinion of the Supreme Soviet and so forth, and so forth. The president held a series of consultations recently since, as we say, it already had reached the stage of these checks on the preparation of the visit and he consulted both the leadership of the Supreme Soviet and the leadership of the collegium, inter alia, the government, and the Security Council. One may ask if this could have been foreseen. Probably not, although everybody realizes that preparations for such a visit are a necessity. I repeat that we are not abandoning this visit. It merely has been postponed. But fine-tuning is going on, and this is evidenced by the fact that Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe came here only 10 days ago precisely to synchronize watches on how preparations were going. There was a serious conversation with Boris Nikolayevich. He and I had thorough talks. That is, this demonstrates that up to the last minute both sides had been working, synchronizing, checking times, and so forth, and so forth. So, the decision was reached taking into account these talks and other circumstances.

[Tavrovskiy] What are the possible consequences of the deferment of the visit to Japan and South Korea for Russia's economic relations with the G-7 as a whole and with Japan and South Korea in particular?

[Kozyrev] I think, in fact, that there won't be any consequences, because at the very beginning we categorically denied and deny the possibility of any kind of linkage whatsoever of bilateral relations with Japan, in particular, of our disputed problems, territorial ones, with the G-7. Well, I have to say that the attempt by the

Japanese to put this problem forward to the G-7 was one of those political and diplomatic mistakes, unfortunate moves, which, basically.... [changes thought] Well, we also, I suppose, have made some mistakes. If you ask the Japanese minister about my actions or the actions of Moscow, he will note a number of unfortunate ones. This is probably unavoidable. But we consider that there are certain unfortunate moves. This does not constitute grounds for anti-Japanese hysteria. But that's life. In my view they have made a blunder, attempting to hurl this subject, to put this subject, on the G-7 agenda.

This is a purely bilateral question. In general we do not make our foreign policy dependent on economic support and economic aid, especially when it involves disputes with other states. These are two different questions. But we will continue to strengthen relations with the G-7 states because this accords with our strategic objectives and the national interests of Russia, which itself ought to join this club of democratic states whose economic development is dynamic.

[Tavrovskiy] But, nevertheless, some harm has no doubt been done to Russia's international prestige. Some think that this was caused by a combination, a superimposing as it were of two positions—the too harsh line taken by the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the too soft line taken by the Russian Foreign Ministry. What do you think of this?

[Kozyrev] I do not think either is correct. We can harm ourselves and do so at every step on the slightest pretext, especially when you bear in mind our lack of political restraint, our tendency to get hysterical, I would say. Well, naturally, this is just the kind of playing field—this hysteria, these endless rumors and so on—which the opposition likes. But I do not really understand why a considerable section of public opinion—the press, say, and political circles which do not belong to the Bolshevik opposition—is also participating in this. I hope the reason for this is just their political inexperience at this moment in time.

[Tavrovskiy] Nevertheless, coming back to the harshness and the softness. The Japanese Foreign Ministry and their specialists on the Soviet Union are said to be renowned for their hard line.

[Kozyrev] That is so. I would say that in their political and diplomatic handling of this process the Japanese probably committed a number of mistakes. Among other things, one was left with the impression of heavy pressure—and this naturally prompted a confirmation from our side of something which they and everybody else knew long ago, that we don't and won't do anything under pressure. I have already cited the example of the G-7. We have already told the Japanese this, in quite forthright terms.

But the most interesting paradox concerns the options which we discussed with the president. As you know, there were more than 14 options of various kinds on the table. But not one of these options had actually been adopted as our state policy. None of them were discussed with the Japanese as a compromise option because we had not chosen one ourselves. In actual fact, our position—our official state position—remains the same as the Soviet Union's used to be. In other words, we don't really have a new policy. The Russian leadership has not yet adopted a new stand.

There are just the two new principles that were welcomed by the Japanese and by the whole world, but they were announced back at the end of last year by President Yeltsin while still within the framework of the Union; namely, the principles of legality and justice and the fact that we no longer regard Japan as one of the World War II vanquished states, but in respect of the islands themselves, let us say, our position remains as it was. No one has created a new position.

In actual fact, however, the Japanese have introduced a new compromise position. That is to say, their position earlier was all the islands and nothing but that. Now they have in general at various stages been—not in newspaper discussions like in our country, but precisely at the political and official level—putting into circulation several compromise options, including in particular two islands at first and sovereignty over all four but with their handover much later, and so on and so forth. That is to say that in many fairly substantial respects—not decisive respects, but very substantial ones—they already have outlined a compromise position—the possibility of a compromise position—something which we, for our part, have not actually done yet, officially, that is. So, one gets a state of affairs whereby in their position now, as compared with the position reached in the talks between the former Soviet Union and Japan, there is much more real flexibility than even in our own, I have to admit. It is another matter that there may not be any flexibility on our part precisely with regard to the islands. That is quite another issue, but I am simply speaking of the fact that there have been shifts on their part while on our side there have been no shifts. So, you can see that from their viewpoint it probably seems that it is precisely our approach that is very rigid, while theirs is, you see, flexible. Therefore, I think that we of course need to assess this situation in a very well-balanced way.

[Tavrovskiy] The samurais' bushido code of honor envisaged that a person committing some error or blunder assumed the responsibility for it and, you know, the samurais had a special sword to perform hara kiri. In Japan now a search already, I would think, has started for culprits at the Japanese Foreign Ministry. What is your opinion?

[Kozyrev, laughing] There also is such enthusiasm on our part, I think.

[Tavrovskiy, laughing] It is an enthusiasm with the Japanese as well. After all they even had a special sword. What is your opinion? Will there be any cadre reshuffle in the Japanese Foreign Ministry in this connection?

And will there be the same process with us? Will anyone have need of a short sword?

[Kozyrev] No, there will be no reshuffle whatsoever in our Foreign Ministry. I rule this out from top to bottom. As for them, I cannot really say at the moment.

[Abakumov] The thing is, while you were answering the previous question, you spoke about Russia's national interests and state policy, but it is no secret that as yet there is no concept of the national interest in the state's foreign policy. There is no concept, but there is a foreign policy. Not only that, but there are many voices emanating from our authorities, each thinking that it is a diplomat and a great expert and in this respect. What is the position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its minister about which policy we should carry out?

[Kozyrev] Well, let us clarify this a little. There is a concept and a policy because there is a source for it—the president, who has a popular mandate to put Russia among the ranks of the civilized, democratic states with free market economies. This mandate was given way back by the First Congress of People's Deputies. The Russian declaration of state independence, if you recall, formulated that objective. This leads to two clear priorities: to join the club of highly-developed democratic states, on equal terms and with head held high, as we have already said. It is amazing that, for example, Italy and even Japan are in the G-7, while Russia, with all her riches, is not. It is simply because we were frozen inside a totalitarian regime. As soon as we defrost ourselves and become a normal democratic state then of course our place is there and Boris Nikolayevich has already been invited to participate in it this summer.

The second clear priority coincides to a large extent with the first one, and this is to be good neighbors with everyone; primarily with the ex-Soviet states, obviously, and also with neighbors—this is why I say that it coincides to a large extent—such as Japan, for example, the United States, which is our neighbor and partner to the East, in fact. There are also such countries as China, with which we have a vast border and with which we are about to forge fundamental and long-term neighborly relations during Boris Nikolayevich's visit there, countries that are not in the G-7 and according to some criteria are not the type of state that I was talking about. But ideological differences should not prevent us from maintaining the best of relations with this great neighbor.

So the question is fairly.... [changes thought] It is quite another matter that this concept and this policy are not to our opposition's liking. Neither is it liked by those who want to set us against the civilized countries that were on our side during the 19 to 23 August and in fact supported democracy in Russia. These people want to cut us off from allies abroad of our government reform; they want to sink the reforms and, I believe, sink the country because Russia simply will not survive another 70 years of isolation and wilderness, of the so-called third way.

As regards the living standard and the quality of the environment, we are already one of the developed countries, though far from being among the first 10.

[Abakumov] But geopolitically we are a Eurasian power, and obviously the eastern and western directions of our foreign policy are of equal importance. Well, we now have had this setback in the eastern direction. Will it be compensated for by, say, the forthcoming visits to Turkey and China, or can we expect that the visits to Japan and Korea will take place in the foreseeable future?

[Kozyrev] Certainly, they'll take place. Well, in the first place I would just like to point out that there is no connection between Japan and Korea; they are not twin states, and so it is simply a coincidence of dates and they can take place separately. Yes, certainly—we are already negotiating on new dates and the Russian doubleheaded eagle certainly faces in all directions with equal attention and equal involvement and intensity—both in the West and in the East. We must not withdraw from world politics. We must not now let ourselves develop an inferiority complex. Of course, the opposition would dearly like to drive us into this besieged fortress as it were and give us an inferiority complex, make us feel that we are poor and not what we used to be, we are neither one thing nor the other, and we do not participate in anything or do anything and so on. In fact, we are participating everywhere and will continue to do so, and we are received everywhere as a great power. If only we had as well the economic backing for our foreign policy—that is our lame leg at present, unfortunately. But never mind, we will pull ourselves up. We will try to pull ourselves up politically; then the economy will follow.

[Tavrovskiy] Thank you very much.

[Abakumov] Thank you.

Explains Status of Japan Relations

LD1209140292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Abakumov and Tavrovskiy; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abakumov] We begin this interview with a question about the reasons for the postponement of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan and South Korea.

[Kozyrev] This is basically a fairly common occurrence in international affairs. We are not the first to call off a visit, nor will we be the last. Visits are arranged, postponed, and cancelled. There is nothing terrible about that. Generally speaking, a visit at the summit level—especially a visit from one great country to another—can be compared with the launch of a spaceship. Just think

how often space launches are postponed. Recommendations for the postponement of a launch are made by professionals. In this instance, we also supported this recommendation. It is better to postpone such events if, for example, the weather conditions are not entirely favorable, than to risk the possibility of failing to achieve the altitude which we set ourselves.

For the visit to Japan by Boris Nikolayevich we have set ourselves an extraordinarily high target. As of today, it is clear that both sides—I wish to stress this—both sides, for a number of reasons, both domestic and foreign, found themselves unprepared, at the moment, to achieve this altitude. We do not want a lower altitude. We will gain this altitude later. Talks on this are already under way. Boris Nikolayevich had a telephne conversation with Japanese Premier Miyazawa. I immediately received the Japanese ambassador here.

The same can be said about Korea as far as concerns telephone conversations at the top level and receiving the ambassador here. All of this was done in a civilized and normal manner. There has been no exacerbation in relations between Russia and Japan and we will not permit any. And the Japanese side likewise.

[Abakumov] It is no secret that as yet there is no concept of the national interest in the state's foreign policy. There is no concept, but there is a foreign policy. Not only that, but there are many voices emanating from our authorities, each thinking that it is a diplomat and a great expert and in this respect. What is the position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its minister about which policy we should carry out?

[Kozyrev] Well, let us clarify this a little. There is a concept and a policy because there is a source for it—the president, who has a popular mandate to put Russia among the ranks of the civilized, democratic states with free market economies. This mandate was given way back by the First Congress of People's Deputies. The Russian declaration of state independence, if you recall, formulated that objective. This leads to two clear priorities: to join the club of highly-developed democratic states, on equal terms and with head held high, as we have already said. It is amazing that, for example, Italy and even Japan are in the G-7, while Russia, with all her riches, is not. It is simply because we were frozen inside a totalitarian regime. As soon as we defrost ourselves and become a normal democratic state then of course our place is there and Boris Nikolayevich has already been invited to participate in it this summer.

The second clear priority coincides to a large extent with the first one, and this is to be good neighbors with everyone; primarily with the ex-Soviet states, obviously, and also with neighbors—this is why I say that it coincides to a large extent—such as Japan, for example, the United States, which is our neighbor and partner to the East, in fact. There are also such countries as China, with which we have a vast border and with which we are about to forge fundamental and long-term neighborly relations during Boris Nikolayevich's visit there, countries that are not in the G-7 and according to some criteria are not the type of state that I was talking about. But ideological differences should not prevent us from maintaining the best of relations with this great neighbor.

So the question is fairly.... [changes thought] It is quite another matter that this concept and this policy are not to our opposition's liking. Neither is it liked by those who want to set us against the civilized countries that were on our side during the 19 to 23 August and in fact supported democracy in Russia. These people want to cut us off from allies abroad of our government reform; they want to sink the reforms and, I believe, sink the country because Russia simply will not survive another 70 years of isolation and wilderness, of the so-called third way.

All of these things do exist. I think the multiplicity of voices and the improvization, the apparatus and apparatus-commercial structures which are straining to get into foreign policy and which are even trying to participate in implementing it themselves, I think that all of this is a negative aspect which exists not only in foreign policy, but is a general problem and that is why it is so difficult for the president.

[Tavrovskiy] You mentioned the multiplicity of voices in our foreign policy. But does the Foreign Ministry itself speak with one voice? How does your team play?

[Kozyrev] My team is at present just in the process of being formed. The top echelon, our echelon, is the one that President Yeltsin has appointed so of course there is harmony here, it is in general a collective of like-minded people. But in other echelons and in many embassies the reforms have not yet been completed. But I repeat again that this is, of course, a general problem.

[Abakumov] We have discussed foreign policy with regard to the distant, if we can put it that way, foreign countries. There are also the neighboring foreign countries. In this connection do you not think that when our foreign policy is built on principles which are strict but, of course, not harsh, strong but not, of course, strong-arm, do you not think that precisely such a policy brings more fruits and more and better results than a policy of constant concessions and the constant search for a not always successful compromise?

[Kozyrev] I think that I am even convinced of this. Since you have set this out, this is precisely what we are trying to do. It is another matter that it is perhaps not always evident and not always successful. That is another matter.

In general, I do not claim that we do everything correctly. In general we are only now getting this in order but we are trying to master this new situation because, in effect, we do not have any experience of such a policy as you described, strong but not strong- arm, balanced but not hysterical, and so on.

[Tavrovskiy] Does it not seem to you that Japan is a sort of enchanted state for state visits. For example, Bush cancelled his visit, postponed it; last year President Gorbachev was on the verge of cancelling his visit. And now we have this new postponement.

[Kozyrev] In general, I would say that such spiritual concepts as enchantment—that Japan cannot be understood by the mind but only by the soul—I would say that such descriptions are more applicable to Russia. Perhaps it can be seen from our poetry and literature. Just look at whomever you read, take Nabokov, take Gumelev, take Tolstoy, finally take Dostoyevskiy. Literally all of them spoke about some special feature of Russia. I think that we must preserve this and this really is our spiritual wealth. Although some people may say that this consists in being unpredictable, perhaps at times this takes the form of unpredictability or looks like a sort of abruptness but on the other hand this is really the soul, the culture or the soul of the people, which is so poetic. So I would not like to concede this to the Japanese, to tell the truth.

[Tavrovskiy] But the Japanese are convinced that their soul is also inpenetrable.

[Kozyrev] Let them be proud of what they have and we will be proud of what we have. In this respect I am rather conservative. I think that we should be proud of ourselves, of Russia.

Reviews Leasing of Island, Other Issues

LD1309154192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1250 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev by Dmitriy Kiselev in Moscow; from the "Panorama" program—live]

[Text] [Kiselev] Today, our guest in the studio is Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev.

Andrey Vladimirovich, events are developing so swiftly that the failure of the Russian president's visit to Tokyo to materialize already is becoming history. New problems, including some which are, to a certain extent, scandalous, are appearing on the agenda. I am referring to the announcement that Shikotan Island has been leased to Hong Kong for $200 million. Hong Kong is leasing several hundred hectares for 50 years. Did you know anything about this deal, or did you read about it in the newspapers?

[Kozyrev] First, I am glad that the postponement of this visit, the president's visit, already is receding into history. Today, at this time, we have been speaking with Edamura, the Japanese ambassador in Moscow. We agreed that we would not stir up this issue any further, that we would not whip up passions over this episode, that we would look to the future. The aim which we set ourselves and which our Japanese colleagues agree with is to turn our relationship into full-scale good-neighborliness, and even into an alliance. We will go on working toward this goal in relations between Russia and Japan.

As for this lease, I think it is a bit premature at the moment to jump to the conclusion that it is a scandal.

[Kiselev] That is what it is being called in the first reports, the ones we have received so far.

[Kozyrev] Well, generally speaking, it is our custom to overdramatize everything. It may serve to create interest. But, for the time being, I would refrain from that description until a legal opinion on the legality of this deal has been obtained. Nevertheless, the border between the jurisdiction of regions and the jurisdiction of the Russian center in external affairs is, in general, not absolutely clear. This is a problem for us.

[Kiselev] At any rate the lease does appear to me to be an interesting development, an interesting turn of events in this debate on the islands. Was leasing one of the 14 options that the president was referring to when he said he had 14 options for a solution to the problem of the islands?

[Kozyrev] I can say that the question of leasing has not been talked through with the Foreign Ministry. As far as I could tell from comments made by Fedorov [Sakhalin governor] himself, they did not discuss this question with anybody at the center either. This is in fact something which is being studied at the moment—whether they are entitled to do this independently or not. Lawyers will have to pronounce on this question. But it is absolutely correct to say that this was not one of the 14 options.

[Kiselev] Well, lawyers may pronounce on this, but what is your private view? Or do you find it difficult to separate your private identity from your official position?

[Kozyrev] Well, as a private individual, I am concerned to see that we live in a rule-of-law state and that our assessments are dictated by legal criteria, rather than by emotion, until such time as we get accustomed to thinking that our human interests are the same as our legal interests. Until that happens, we will live in a chaotic atmosphere.

[Kiselev] In other words, as a human being you take a neutral view—for the time being—of the leasing of Shikotan?

[Kozyrev] I take a totally neutral view of this. I am interested in the question of the legal nature of this agreement. I would not like our regions not to have direct contacts with foreign partners and to be fettered. At the same time, I, as a human being, very much would like these foreign contacts not to go beyond certain bounds, beyond which the integrity of Russia actually is exposed to attack. But this is a legal question and here emotions will help no one. If we at the center start, you know, saying no, no, you can't do anything, this won't do

any good. This absolutely is incorrect. If they start considering there that the center does not possess any powers whatsoever and the regions themselves must do everything, then we will mess up Russia. It seems to me that the only human response consists in legally sorting out this problem, and that's all.

[Kiselev] That is—the territorial integrity of Russia—important for you?

[Kozyrev] I would even have said that it is of absolute importance for me. But the economic independence of the regions, the decentralization of power, also is of absolute importance, because otherwise we will find ourselves in the situation of the former Soviet Union, which collapsed not so much because the republics were active, but because the center did not want—within sensible limits—to compromise. So, now I consider that the Russian leadership is full of resolution to avoid exactly this mistake.

[Kiselev] Recently it has seemed that the whole of the multi- storeyed building on Smolensk Square has been working on the Kurils issue and the diplomatic mill stones have been turning, grinding over nothing else but these four islands. But, so as to.... [changes thought] I honestly do not think that all this is so. What have we got in Europe?

[Kozyrev] Well, at present Europe is engaged primarily in the preparation—it already is gaining pace—for Boris Nikolayevich's London visit, his official visit.

[Kiselev] When will that be?

[Kozyrev] It will be at the beginning of November. And in the course of this visit we plan to sign a wide-ranging political treaty for the first time. In addition, it is of no small import that at present London is the chairman of the EEC, the Common Market, and therefore, this virtually will be a talk on all things European.

[Kiselev] Well, I am attempting to dwell a little on London. Will someone try to throw a wrench into the works three days before preparations for the visit begin?

[Kozyrev] I cannot rule out the possibility that such attempts will be made, but I am sure that such exceptions as the cancellation of visits do occur. Basically, they should not be dramatized. But they will not become the rule with us. We do not have that sort of president, and we have not embarked on this work only to be stopped so easily. I am more interested in how our foreign policy is influencing reforms. I regard this as a priority. Therefore, our efforts are directed at ensuring that we have the best possible relations with the most developed states of the world, thereby assisting and furthering the development of reform. This is a natural aspiration. If we are all friends and allies, you will help me get on my feet, and I will help you to yours. If we all are enemies, you will not help me. Enemies do not help each other.

[Kiselev] Well, we have not yet concluded a peace treaty with Japan. In other words, Japan remains—formally—an enemy and an awkward partner for us. How would you describe a convenient partner for us? You need not specify a country.

[Kozyrev] The convenient partner for us is the one which confidently believes that we have irreversibly taken the road of democratic reform and that, consequently, we will no longer be a threat to peace. At the same time, this partner will understand that we have our own interests and that we definitely will uphold these special interests, together with this partner and not against him. But we will argue when this is needed, and we are doing this. We are arguing over many questions. This is a normal situation to which we and they both have to get used to, of course.

[Kiselev] Thank you, Andrey Vladimirovich, for this interview.

Kozyrev Receives Japan Envoy; Urges Moderation

OW1209151892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 12 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Saturday called for moderation on both sides after Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to postpone a September visit to Japan, Japanese Ambassador to Russia Sumio Edamura said. Kozyrev and Edamura met for about an hour, the first time the two have met since Yeltsin postponed the visit scheduled for September 13-16.

Edamura, in a reference to a series of recent mutually critical remarks from leading Japanese and Russian Government figures, told a news conference after the meeting that Kozyrev said Yeltsin had directed him to convey his wish that both sides exercise moderation. Edamura said his response to the remark was that the Japanese side had always exercised moderation and that restraint is required on the Russian side. Edamura said Kozyrev promised to reprimand anyone involved where necessary.

Edamura said he put it to Kozyrev that the sudden decision to call off the visit was cause for "bewilderment" on the part of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and the Japanese Government. He said the Japanese side had done its best to ensure a successful visit for the president of a democratic Russia and that it hoped the reasons for the postponement would soon be eliminated.

Edamura said Kozyrev told him the Russian side hopes that officials from both nations will do their best to ensure that when the visit eventually takes place, it will be more successful than was anticipated this month.

Edamura indicated that despite the delay, the government is thinking of going ahead with plans to provide 100 million yen in emergency financing for Russia for food and medicine, and with a proposed joint compilation of material related to a group of four disputed islands.

Kozyrev expressed his hope to meet Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in New York later this month at the U.N. General Assembly. Edamura promised to inform Tokyo about Kozyrev's hope.

The Japanese side had hoped that Yeltsin's visit would have opened the way to solving a longstanding bilateral dispute over the four islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets, which the former Soviet Union seized from Japan at the end of World War II.

Burbulis on Japan Trip Postponement, ROK Visit

LD1309202592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Interview with State Secretary Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis by Yevgeniy Kiselev in the Kremlin on 12 September; from the "Itogi" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] The visit to Japan by the president of Russia was postponed at the very last moment. The so-called billeting officers had flown off to Tokyo, and a news conference had been called. Did any extraordinary, force majeure circumstances that came to light at the last moment influence this decision?

[Burbulis] That is indeed the impression, but in essence, it was earlier, three days before the visit, that we managed to assess to the full the system of conditions, circumstances, and consequences, taking into account the whole diplomatic year, and this decision was made in connection with what foreign policy has to do in the near future and the way that this may reflect on the domestic conditions for our reform in this country.

[Kiselev] Was the decision made as a result of discussions at the Security Council?

[Burbulis] Discussions were held with the leadership of the government, with the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, and finally at the Security Council, as one of several questions at a routine session. And it was in line with the sum total of the stands of these three bodies of power that the president made his final decision to postpone the visit.

[Kiselev] Very many people view the decision to cancel the visit as a retreat by the president of Russia in the face of pressure from the conservatives. Is that so?

[Burbulis] Well, what can you do? We thought least of all when coming to this decision about the reaction of our national-patriots to this conclusion. It is just one of a confluence of circumstances. The very idea that the president made a concession to this group is unacceptable. We continue to seek a solution to this problem.

[Kiselev] But Zhirinovskiy and Anpilov [leaders of Liberal Democratic Party and Moscow Workers' Movement] are already celebrating a victory, nevertheless.

[Burbulis] Well, evidently, one can feel rather sorry for them, if they have nothing else to celebrate. But what can you do?

[Kiselev] Russia recognizes a territorial dispute, the existence of a territorial dispute. In your view, will this dispute have to be settled, sooner or later?

[Burbulis] Certainly, there is no disputing that.

[Kiselev] How, and when?

[Burbulis] One could bear in mind the five-stage formula for a solution proposed by Boris Nikolayevich. Japan's stance also has more than one dimension. We have seen equally among Japan's leadership and among the various groups in the leading parties a variety of tones concerning this thorn in the flesh, this territorial thorn in the flesh, inherited from the past. In this context, we have chances to make final adjustments, refinements, to our approach, both on our side and theirs. President Yeltsin declared the principle of rights, legality, and justice as a basic one, and we would like these to be applied equally to us, as well. Today, it is fair to demand decisions of Russia that it is in a condition to make. Today it is fair to demand of us actions that are in line, not just with the letter of certain documents that we are obliged to consider, but also with the spirit of the current reforms in Russia and the spirit of world processes, if you like.

[Kiselev] The latest issue of IZVESTIYA published an interview with Yuriy Petrov, the president of Russia's chief of staff, in which he mentions the possibility of examining the territorial dispute at the International Court at The Hague. Is this indeed one approach, one option?

[Burbulis] Well, you know that such a point of view exists. But at the same time, I have the understanding that we will cope with this problem bilaterally.

[Kiselev] Without resorting to the International Court?

[Burbulis] Without resort to it.

[Kiselev] A more particular question, but one that is nevertheless of concern to many. The newspapers are full of rumors about the possible resignation of the Foreign Minstry heads, Kozyrev and Kunadze. Are you prepared to make any comment on this?

[Burbulis] If I have to participate in an official discussion of this problem, I will be categorically against it being raised, taking account of the fact that, in this case, the professionals at the Foreign Ministry have worked with maximum conscientiousness, and the decision that the president made in no way casts any doubt on their previous work.

[Kiselev] And so, the visit has been postponed, but one problem arises. Apart from the visit to Tokyo, the visit to South Korea has also ended up being postponed, and thus a third party has also suffered. What are we to do about this?

[Burbulis] Well, to begin with, we have never considered South Korea a third party. It is an independent and fully fledged partner of ours, and in this context, I can report that an understanding has been reached between President No Tae-u and President Yeltsin that the visit by our Russian president to the Republic of Korea will take place on 12-13 November, and that all these ideas and tasks that we have been preparing for will reach their conclusion.

Yeltsin's Chief of Staff on Postponement

PM1109191992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Interview with Yuriy Petrov, leader of the president's administration, by Vasiliy Kononenko; place, date not given: "Why B. Yeltsin Did Not Go to Japan"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The postponement of Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin's visit to Japan has provoked an avalanche of hypotheses and conjectures as to the reasons for this unexpected decision. Regarding the role of the Russian Security Council in this process, commentaries have ranged from the hypothesis that the Security Council "foisted" this decision on the president and that he is "no longer in control of the situation," to claims that "Yeltsin could not risk leaving the Kremlin for fear of being ousted." Everyone, of course, is interested in the details both of the preparation for the visit and of the reasons for its cancellation at the appointed time. IZVESTIYA's correspondent sought explanations from Yuriy Petrov, leader of the Russian Federation president's administration, who participated in drawing up the program of the visit and held talks in Tokyo.

[Petrov] The preparation for the president's visit to Japan began a long time ago, virtually from the beginning of the year. Very great significance was attached to this event. For perhaps the first time in our practice, a state commission was set up to prepare the president's visit. The commission examined the progress of this work almost weekly and submitted proposals to the president and the foreign economic and foreign policy departments and services.

From the point of view of filling the portfolio with documents, virtually everything was ready for the visit. The main political document had been elaborated, as had a package of economic proposals and an agreement in the sphere of the use of space—in all around 10 documents. On the whole, the work on these documents did not give rise to complications. But during the discussion of economic issues, the Japanese would without fail make the proviso that they could be examined only in the event of serious progress in eliminating the so-called "territorial problem."

There were no special problems from the organizational and technical point of view either. In meetings with representatives of the Japanese political leadership during my visit to Tokyo we had virtually fully agreed the program for the visit; security questions were also discussed. This part of the preparation perhaps required more attention than during the president's visits to other countries—the possibility of provocations by extremist forces could not be ruled out. But the Japanese gave assurances that the president's safety would be ensured.

[Kononenko] What then triggered the breakdown of this, at first sight, successfully prepared process?

[Petrov] From the very beginning of the process the work on the preparation of the visit operated on two levels, as it were. At one level everything was agreed and mutual understanding was achieved—I am talking of the program for the visit and specific documents. But at the other level—the Japanese side was constantly fretting over the vexed territorial problem, despite the president's statement that such a course is unproductive.

[Kononenko] Nevertheless, the president announced 12 possible scenarios for talking about this topic; was there therefore room to maneuver?

[Petrov] Twelve or even 14 scenarios—that is rather the result of the seriousness of the approach on our side. Russia inherited this complex, thorny question, which cannot be solved overnight, from the Union. First of all we must study our inheritance and satisfy ourselves that the only correct decision is such and such, and no other. And we hoped that the Japanese side would take account of the full extraordinary nature of the situation.

[Kononenko] But after all, there exists the declaration of 1956, which Russia recognizes?

[Petrov] What is our basic approach? In view of the historical, political, and other complexities of the territorial dispute with Japan, we consider that the only acceptable way to resolve it is a detailed and competent study, either on a bilateral basis or at an international level, including, if necessary, in the International Court in The Hague. After all, there was not just the declaration of 1956; there was also the USSR Government's statement of 1960, which in effect repudiated the declaration. Therefore, if it is proved and recognized on the basis of the norms of international law that these islands belong to Japan, we could then seek together with the Japanese side a way of implementing this ruling. After all, our people live in the South Kurils, and military subunits are stationed there. But it is important, as the president has repeatedly stressed, to act exclusively on the basis of generally recognized norms in such disputes. Any pressure, still less an ultimatum-based approach to conducting dialogue with Russia, is unacceptable.

[Kononenko] And what was the Japanese side's reaction to the arguments you set forth?

[Petrov] Both during my conversations in Tokyo and through the Foreign Ministry channels, and also during the visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Watanabe to Moscow, this was discussed several times. Signals were given, indeed, it was declared outright, that the tactics

chosen by the Japanese side of linking the territorial problem to all the other questions could not lead to progress in Japanese-Russian relations. In reply we heard: Recognize our sovereignty over the islands, and then we will reach agreement on all the rest. Moreover, such statements have continued to be heard right up until most recent times. And I cannot even say which was the straw which broke the camel's back; the situation which has developed was examined in all its ramifications in the Security Council.

[Kononenko] Did this question arise spontaneously at the Security Council session?

[Petrov] It had not been planned especially beforehand, but all such questions connected with the country's security are without fail discussed at these sessions. The president wanted everything to be weighed up again, and to hear the ideas of the committee members.

[Kononenko] Did you participate in this session?

[Petrov] I am not a member of the committee.

[Kononenko] And was your report on the results of the visit to Tokyo used?

[Petrov] On my return from my working visit, I reported to the president on the situation. I can honestly say that at that time I was not convinced that the visit should not take place.

[Kononenko] And now?

[Petrov] I believe that the correct decision was adopted.

[Kononenko] To whom does it belong? The president or the Security Council?

[Petrov] The Security Council is a consultative organ to the president. The president always has the final decision.

[Kononenko] The decision to postpone the visit has been adopted. What lies in store for Russian-Japanese relations, in your view?

[Petrov] I would not dramatize what has happened. The visit to Japan has not been canceled, just postponed. There can be no question whatever of any break in relations. Both sides need to use the time ahead to think over the situation and work together so that the visit does nevertheless takes place in the near future. Russia will still seek to develop relations with neighboring Japan, and is ready for dialogue. The words of Mr. Watanabe, cited in his interview with IZVESTIYA, "to restore trust between Russia and Japan"—are more than pertinent right now. For this, broad contacts in the economy and culture are needed; time too is necessary.

[Kononenko] Does what you have said mean that if the Japanese side isolates the "territorial problem" from the package of bilateral relations and does not rigidly link it to other questions, progress in the relations between our countries will become a reality?

[Petrov] I am convinced that this approach is mutually acceptable, and we proposed it, incidentally. The Japanese have territorial problems, for instance, with South Korea and China, but they do not link them to economic cooperation. Why then the double standards in relation to Russia? "Your president is a decisive, bold man. Whey can't he solve the territorial problem?" they say. I replied to this that the president is, moreover, a balanced and sober politician, capable of finding and making the only correct decision. I probably explained this insufficiently persistently. Well, there is more time now to continue the dialogue.

Japanese Waiting for Russia to Make First Move

LD1109141992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo September 11 TASS—Japan will always be ready for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo, because it "seeks to set the beginning of new, good neighbourly relations with the new Russia," but it is Moscow who should take the first step, Masamichi Hanabusa, press secretary of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS today at a regular briefing for foreign journalists.

According to the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Tokyo believes Moscow should take the initiative in tackling both the territorial problem and the problem of bilateral relations. "The ball is now on the Russian part of the field," he said. According to Masamichi Hanabusa, during the recent meeting in Moscow of President Yeltin and Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe the Russian president said he had about 12 ways of settling the territorial problem. Be he had not taken a final decision, and was going to submit concrete propopsals during his talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

"However, the talks were not held, and we do not know what Russia has on its mind." This is why, Hanabusa continued, "Tokyo will wait for Moscow to take the next step." He expressed hope that the domestic problems, which did not permit President Yeltsin to visit Japan, would be resolved as soon as possible. He said in this connection that the postponement of Yeltsin's visit to Japan was in no way connected with Tokyo's stand at talks with Moscow. The situation in Russia is the only reason for it.

Responding to the question of ITAR-TASS, Hanabusa said Russia was not expressing any desire to meet Japan halfway. "Usually at diplomatic negotiations the partners are both working for bringing their stands closer together. Judging by all appearances, Russia is not devoting much attention to it." He described Japan's stand as more flexible in comparison with the previous one. Taking into account the emergence of the new Russia, Hanabusa continued, Tokyo changed its approach to the date and terms of the turning over of the "northern territories". It agreed to the turning over to Japan first of the two islands and the holdng

of talks about the remaining two, if Moscow "agrees to some extent with Japan's view that all the four islands belong to it."

Touching about further relations with Russia, the press secretary stressed that "Tokyo intends to do business with Russia, as usual". Specifically, Japan is ready to conclude the agreements with Russia, which were expected to be signed during Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo. "I think there is no reason to postpone the planned signing of bilateral documents," he pointed out. At the same time, Hanabusa did not specify what agreements Tokyo intended to sign with Moscow and whan it is planned to be done.

Gaydar Blames Political Forces for Cancelled Visit

OW1109164292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Some political forces inside and outside Russia are trying to present the cancellation of President Yeltsin's Visit to China [as received] as a major victory for Russian conservatives," said Yegor Gaydar, commenting on the issue at INTERFAX's request. "That's not the case." Gaydar affirmed his complete agreement with the reasoning behind the visit's cancellation, which Yeltsin gave journalists upon his arrival in Cheboksary. The President said that "the Japanese too categorically presented the issue of the Kuril Islands." "If we can't reconcile that issue, there's no point in going to Japan."

Gaydar strongly emphasized that speculation on the matter of the cancelled visit is intended to pit Russia against the entire civilized world. Gaydar feels the attempts are not serious enough to do so. "Russia's international policy, like its domestic policy, remains unchanged." He refused to comment on the ups and downs of the meeting at which the decision was made to cancel the visit, remarking only that "the decision was not easy, but was carefully weighed."

Hong Kong Leases Section of Kuril Island

LD1109142892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk September 11 TASS—An unprecedented 50-year lease contract granted to a Hong Kong developer was the focus of public attention on Friday shortly after President Boris Yeltsin announced his desision to call off his visit to Japan. The contract, permitting the Hong Kong based company "Carlson and Kaplan Ltd" to build a recreation complex, consisting of hotels, casinos, a cycling track, bantam fight and hound racing pavillions, horseback riding and other facilities, aroused much speculation among politicians.

The Sakhalin and Kuril administration did not breach Russian legislation when it issued the 50-year lease permit, Sakhalin Region's Vice Governor Viktor Sirenko told TASS on Friday.

Commenting on the agreement, Sirenko reminded that according to the contract signed on September 4, "Carlson and Kaplan Ltd" received 278 hectares along the eastern coast of the island of Shikotan whose total area is 18 thousand hectares. The complex is meant mainly for East Asian tourists where such entertainments are either restricted by national legislations or are too expensive because of high taxes. The island's administration did not hold any preliminary consultations with the federal government and leased the plot at an unbelievably low price of 200 million roubles (less than one million U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate). The amount is considerable for the local administration, though, which plans to use the funds to remedy its ailing budget.

One of the contract provisions stipulated that "the South Kuril regional administration endeavours to inform the Japanese Government of the terms of the given contract in case the island of Shikotan is yielded to Japan."

Visit Postponement 'Serious Defeat' for Moderates

PM1109193992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Article by Maksim Yusin: "Cancellation of the Visit Indicates Change in Disposition of Forces in Russian Leadership"]

[Text] For all the Russian presidential advisers' reassuring statements in an attempt to convince the world that the cancellation of Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo will have no negative consequnces for Russia, one should have no illusions. The consequences will be most serious and the prospects are bleak.

The uncivilized and crude manner in which the postponement of the Far East tour was handled leaves a bitter taste in one's mouth. The unintelligible statement made the next day by the president's press secretary only aggravated the painful impression. By blaming Japan for what happened Vyacheslav Kostikov effectively repudiated what Yeltsin himself had said. In a telephone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa he had cited "domestic circumstances" to explain his decision.

The general impression is that the Russian side has gotten into a tangle over its excuses. The frantic search for an excuse to cancel the visit began some weeks ago. At first Moscow favored the unconvincing argument about the "absence of guarantees of the president's safety." According to informed sources, the Security Council session which decided the visit's fate gave this reason serious consideration and only rejected it at the last moment. It was an impatient session participant,

speaking to journalists during a break, who gave them this version, which was immediately picked up by news agencies.

The Security Council members settled on a different version, however. Domestic political reasons are in fact a more plausible excuse, if only to justify the refusal to fly not only to Tokyo, but also to Seoul, where there were apparently no problems over the president's safety. But hardly anyone in the world would take the Russian explanation seriously.

The cancellation of the tour three days before it was due to start, when Japan had everything ready to greet Yeltsin and had spent a great deal of money, is an unprecedented step in diplomatic practice. No matter what might have happened during the visit (let us imagine even the worst-case scenario), nothing could have dealt as great a blow to Russian-Japanese relations as this insulting act which has no place in civilized behavior in the world arena.

For such a drastic step to be taken it requires an act of God—a natural disaster, someone's death or illness, a sudden crisis in bilateral relations... Nothing of this kind has occurred in recent months. A lot of hard diplomatic work has been done, efforts (albeit unsuccessful) have been made to coordinate the sides' positions, and there have been no anti-Russian moves on Tokyo's part...

Unfortunately, it can confidently be predicted that the cancellation of the visit will undermine confidence in us not only in Japan. Yeltsin has regained the reputation of an unpredictable, impulsive politician which he appeared to be successfully shedding.

The Far East tour cancellation affair shed light on the disposition of forces within the Russian leadership. The supporters of the moderate course in international affairs suffered a serious defeat. According to people familiar with the way the Security Council session went, representatives of the reformist camp, recognizing the unfavorable correlation of forces, probably regarded this as not the most fundamental question and did not enter the fray.

The positions of the Foreign Ministry and of Andrey Kozyrev were certainly undermined. There is growing speculation about the minister's possible resignation. Kozyrev's entourage has rejected these rumors. I do not think it will come to a resignation, not in the immediate future anyway...

The impression is that the massive attack on the visit was prearranged and was well coordinated. The Japanese theme was raised even to the surprise of many Security Council session participants: There was another question on the agenda.

It is well known which forces in the president's entourage and in the Suopreme Soviet favored the cancellation of the visit. The fact that their viewpoint, for a long time ignored by Yeltsin, triumphed, is a worrying sign. It is indicative that the decision was made by the Security Council—a body people in the country have already christened the new politburo. The affair of the Russian president's abortive tour of Japan and South Korea is evidence of Yeltsin's fragile positions and of the weakening of the democratic wing in the Russian leadership.

Parliament Official Dismisses Ado Over Japan Trip

LD1309222292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Report on interview with Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Russian Parliament Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Links, by Yevgeniy Kiselev in Moscow; date not given; from the "Itogi" Program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] Many observers in Japan express the view that the government has not yet worked out a clear-cut strategy in relation to Russia.

[Ambartsumov] I do not think anything dramatic has happened. Such incidents did occur before. It even happened once with an American president in relations with Japan. Therefore I absolutely disagree with what IZVESTIYA wrote yesterday—that the supporters of the moderate policy in the government were allegedly defeated. But what is a moderate policy? To hand over all the four islands? Has there been a triumph of reactionary elements over Yeltsin or his capitulation? Nothing of the kind. I believe I am and will be a democrat, for instance. It is just that national and state interests have to be considered. Of course, what is necessary is to come out of this situation with dignity. One must not permit one political party to deem that to be its victory. Ill-considered steps were avoided—I do not mean Yeltsin's actual trip but some ill-considered step on the territorial issue—and that was an outcome predetermined by Russia's national and state interests.

On the other hand, we must, of course, deem it necessary, for our part, to do everything possible to set our relationship with Japan on the right track. We will be expecting—and we must expect the same thing from the Japanese side. The cold shower which was poured on us, too, must sober us up somehow and prompt us, I mean all the power structures and above all naturally the presidential power, to prepare such visits more thoroughly.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Analyzes Visit Cancellation

PM1409122992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 1

[Commentary by Aleksandr Golts: "President's Visit Postponed. A Lesson for the Japanese? But We Too Have Something To Think About"]

[Text] So, the Russian president has postponed his visit to Japan and South Korea. This was done, it follows from the official announcement of the president's press

service, "taking account of a range of circumstances and following an exchange of opinions with leaders of the government, Supreme Soviet, and the Security Council." According to the Japanese side's information, in the course of a telephone conversation with Prime Minister K. Miyazawa, President Yeltsin pointed to the existence of various domestic circumstances which forced him to take his present decision. In the words of K. Kato, general secretary of the Japanese cabinet of ministers, Yeltsin in no way linked his decision to dissatisfaction with the stance of the Japanese side.

There is no denying that the situation at home in our country is indeed currently very difficult. All the same, observers the world over cannot rid themselves of the impression that the cancellation of the visit took place also because Boris Yeltsin found himself in a very complex diplomatic situation, and in his characteristic style, "exploded" it. The FINANCIAL TIMES, for example, claims that the decision in Moscow was adopted with a view to "avoiding still more serious diplomatic complications over the inability to make progress" in resolving the complex territorial problem.

Indeed, as the beginning of the visit drew near, matters developed in such a way that it became in effect impossible for the president to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problem of the South Kurils.

On the one hand, it was quite impossible to describe Tokyo's completely one-dimensional approach as flexible. Unconditional recognition of Japanese jurisdiction over the four contested islands by B. Yeltsin during his visit was put forward as the main condition for developing bilateral relations. Such a position essentially made any compromise impossible.

At the same time it should be borne in mind that all this time the public were kept informed only of Tokyo's opinion. The Russian position quite simply remained a secret, which many people found alarming. And it gave opposition forces the opportunity to declare that a secret pact was being struck between Tokyo and Moscow in order to give away the islands. An "All-Russian Day of Defense of the Kurils" was slated precisely for 10 September.

This is the situation in which Yeltsin deemed it best to postpone the visit. If this is so, then it is possible to say that Moscow has finally demonstrated firmness in defending its principled positions, and an unwillingness to give in to pressure. And in this, the AP correspondent believes, there is a warning signal for other countries. "The concession of the islands would create an undesirable precedent for China, the Baltic states, and other countries having territorial claims against Russia," he remarks.

However, let us be frank. What has happened is a serious lesson not only, and not so much, for the Japanese, as for ourselves. When an important summit meeting is cancelled 72 hours before it is due to begin, it is an event quite out of the ordinary.

It would appear that the situation that has arisen indicates that, by our actions on the international stage over a fairly long period of time, we have evidently given false signals to our partners in Tokyo. Recently in conversation with me a high-ranking Japanese diplomat said roughly as follow: "You granted independence to the Baltic and made serious concessions to the Americans in the arms sphere. I do not understand why you are being so stubborn over the Kurils." I do not intend to evaluate these or other foreign policy actions of Russia or the USSR. I simply want to say that these actions have created, whether this was our intention or not, the impression that Moscow gives in to pressure. You only have to push a little harder. But if we are indeed a "normal great power," as we want to convince everyone, then we should behave in a fitting manner. At least we should clearly explain our understanding of legality and justice both to our partners in negotiations, and to our own people. Let us consider then: Well now, is it thinkable for the leaders of the United States, France, or Great Britain not to inform their citizens at all about their position on an extremely important foreign policy issue?

Now for the possible consequences of what has happened. I suggest that they will be fairly serious. Tokyo at the official level is demonstrating considerable sang froid. K. Kato, general secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers, has limited himself to an expression of regret over Yeltsin's decision. As for the territorial question, Tokyo, in K. Kato's words, intends to conduct talks on this difficult problem stubbornly. Overall, Japan's policy vis-a-vis Russia remains unchanged, K. Kato stressed. He deemed it necessary to note that the commitments to grant aid to Russia which Japan adopted earlier remain in force.

But this, I stress, is what is being said at the official level. I suggest that many people in Tokyo will consider themselves insulted. And it is extremely doubtful whether economic assistance will be granted to Russia in the volumes we would like. Retreat cannot be ruled out in other areas either. It is very important, in my view, that that the cancellation of the visit should in no way stir up inimical feelings among the two peoples toward one another, and should not give new fuel to old fears and suspicions.

After all, the two neighboring states have nowhere to go from each other. And having assessed each other's position once again, they will have to resolve all critical questions, including territorial issues. But this can be done—and what has happenned convinces one as much—solely according to the principles of true legality and justice. Moreover, in such a way that both peoples believe in the legality and fairness of the decision.

A lesson for the Japanese? A lesson for ourselves as well. If our state has foreign policy interests, then it must defend them firmly and consistently.

Syrian Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Officials

Kozyrev, al-Shar' Comment

LD1109154592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Sep—Because all participants in the movement for the Near East settlement met each other halfway, "a unique chance has emerged to progress further along the path of the peace process in the region, and this chance must not be wasted," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated. Answering a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent on the results of today's talks with his Syrian colleague Faruq al-Shar', he noted: "We had a very detailed, friendly, and confidential conversation."

Russia is undertaking energetic efforts as one of the co-initiators of the Near East peace process, Andrey Kozyrev said, and on these issues, it maintains contacts with all the sides involved. "In Moscow," he said, "we are seeking solutions to those difficult questions that must be tackled by everyone together." "We are in constant correspondence with Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger," the Russian minister said. Talks were held recently with the Israeli foreign minister and a PLO delegation. The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry spoke in favor of conducting "active and energetic diplomacy" in the Near East in order "to finally lead this region to peaceful cooperation and to open up for Russia opportunities for economic, cultural, and other forms of cooperation with all the states of the region." "We are vitally interested in peace in the Near East," the minister stressed.

Speaking of the state of Russian-Syrian relations, Andrey Kozyrev stated that in the future they will be based on "the ideology of good-neighborliness." He said that the sides had agreed that "starting from today our relations will develop dynamically, taking account of all the positive elements which have accumulated previously." Everything that was connected with ideology in bilateral relations remains in the past, the Russian minister noted.

Faruq al-Shar', when replying to questions from journalists, stressed that Syria was prepared to cooperate with Russia. "We live in the same region, and it would be natural for us to have diverse relations between our countries," he noted.

The Syrian minister stressed that his country "had a high regard for the effective role of Russia in the Near East process." "Russia, together with the United States," he noted, "bears great responsibility for giving assistance to the sides directly conducting the bilateral talks, so that they can achieve the desired results."

Faruq al-Shar' informed Andrey Kozyrev about the progress of the bilateral talks that are due to resume in Washington at the beginning of next week. The minister spoke in favor of seeking the optimum paths of a just settlement in the Near East on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions and implementing the principle of "territory in exchange for peace." He also recalled that Syria regarded the Near East settlement as a process consisting of three inter-linked stages. The first stage, he said, was linked with the Madrid peace conference. This was followed by the stage of bilateral talks between the Arab countries and Israel. The third stage is direct multilateral talks. The minister said: "We must all cooperate with each other in order to achieve success."

Further From Damascus Radio

JN1109165992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow—At 1130 today, talks were held at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs between the Syrian Arab side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Russian side led by Andrey Kozyrev.

Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the bilateral peace talks; 'Isam al-Na'ib, Syrian Arab ambassador in Moscow; Ghassan Raslan, head of the Eastern Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Mikha'il Wahbah, director of the minister's office.

For Russia, the meeting was attended by Viktor Kulakov, deputy foreign minister [name and title as heard]; Aleksandr Zotov, Russian ambassador in Damascus; Posuvalyuk, head of the Department of Africa and the Middle East at the Russian Foreign Ministry; Vasiliy Kolotusha, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration; and (Galina Sidorov).

The talks dealt with means of advancing the peace process, the bilateral peace talks in Washington, and bilateral ties.

At the conclusion of the session of talks, the two ministers met with reporters. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: The two sides discussed bilateral ties and affirmed their concern for promoting and expanding these ties now and in the future. He added: We live in one region. Hence, it is only natural that we maintain a multifaceted relationship. Our views were identical regarding this. Syria and Russia are interested in promoting and cementing their ties. Similarly, we view these ties with optimism.

Al-Shar' continued: We also discussed the peace process. We exchanged views and held consultations on the best means of achieving a just and comprehensive settlement based on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace. We would appreciate an effective Russian role in the peace process, given that Russia is a cosponsor of the peace conference and that it shoulders a special responsibility, along with the United States, for helping the parties

concerned achieve the desired results. I can term the talks positive and fruitful. We will continue to exchange views. It is our hope that the Russian side will play a more effective role in efforts to achieve peace.

Concerning, the possible Syrian participation in the multilateral talks, al-Shar' affirmed Syria's constant, clear, and well-known position vis-a-vis this issue. He expressed the hope that the next round of bilateral talks will realize the required success so that Syria may contribute effectively toward the multilateral talks. He added: I explained to Minister Kozyrev Syria's attitude toward the peace process. I told him that peace is based on three interconnected and consecutive phases; namely, the Madrid conference, the bilateral talks, and the multilateral talks. Without the Madrid conference, it would have been impossible to start the bilateral talks. Likewise, unless there is success in the second phase of the peace process, there can be no move to the third phase. Therefore, all parties must cooperate to ensure success in the bilateral talks.

Mr. Kozyrev pointed out that today's talks were important and positive, and added: We have had a cordial and constructive talk and agreed that both sides should work to develop relations. Russia and Syria will consolidate a dynamic relationship, making use of the relations they had in the past. We also talked about the peace process and considered the sticking points, which can only be resolved through a combined effort to advance our mutual interests, said Kozyrev. Russia will step up its diplomatic efforts so that this region emerges from its present state of affairs to economic prosperity and peace. It is vital that the chance that has presented itself to bring peace to the region not be frittered away. He added: I would have liked to talk our Syrian friends into joining the multilateral negotiations. Instead, we will advance the bilateral talks. We have had a useful exchange of opinions on many issues, and the door will be left open for further contacts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kozyrev hosted a dinner for Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation. It was attended by a number of ministers and top officials and Russian parliamentary deputies. In an exchange of speeches, Mr. Kozyrev emphasized the importance with which the visit is viewed in Moscow. He referred to the solid relations the two countries had in the past both on the official and personal levels. He said: We are making every effort to boost these relations. He hoped efforts will be made to further these ties and inject them with new ideas. He called his meeting with Mr. al-Shar' extremely interesting and useful, with the two officials discussing peace-related issues. His country was available to help the parties to pursue the Middle East peace process. Russia and Syria had a meeting of minds on a good many issues, especially world issues, Kozyrev said.

In his speech, al-Shar' thanked the Russian minister for providing the opportunity for the two to meet in Moscow. He hoped the visit would revitalize ties between the two countries and peoples. It is natural that we maintain extensive economic and cultural relations, as well as political relations. Al-Shar' concurred with Kozyrev's assessment that their talks were fruitful and constructive, and that both held the same views regarding the Middle East peace process. Al-Shar' expressed the wish that Russia would have a high profile in the peace process and in the international arena. Despite its difficult circumstances, he asserted, Russia deserves such a status. Al-shar' hoped the two countries would work together to promote an evenhanded, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region.

Rutskoy, al-Shar' Discuss Debt

LD1109155592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Sep—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has described talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as an opportunity to synchronize the approaches of the two sides to further constructive development in Russian-Syrian relations. Today he received the head of the Syrian foreign policy department in the Kremlin. As Aleksandr Rutskoy stated at the beginning of the meeting, Russia is interested in preserving everything that has been positive in cooperation between Syria and the former Soviet Union, but it is necessary to take stock of "the legal agreement foundations" of Russian-Syrian relations, taking into account the new political realities. Aleksandr Rutskoy said the 1980 treaty on friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR, which "must be enhanced," deserves special attention in this connection as "there is real potential for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries across the whole spectrum of relations." In the course of the conversation, which lasted for an hour, the sides discussed also a number of specific problems relating to the development of trade and economic cooperation, including the principles of reciprocal payments and ways of resolving the issue of Syria's debt repayment to Russia.

Review Results of Talks

JN1109195392 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy were held in the Kremlin at 1500 today in the presence of both the Syrian and Russian delegations.

At the beginning of the talks, Mr. Aleksandr Rutskoy asked that his greetings and wishes be delivered to President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: President Boris Yeltsin also has asked me to convey his warmest greetings and best wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Following the talks, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made statements to the SANA correspondent in Moscow

and to an INTERFAX correspondent. He said: We are very satisfied with these talks and the statements made by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Our talks dealt with bilateral cooperation in all fields and means to revive and give momentum to this cooperation.

He added: We also have discussed the peace process and the situation in the Middle East. Our viewpoints on reinforcing and developing friendly bilateral relations were identical. He said that bilateral cooperation is very useful, especially since Russia is a cosponsor of the peace conference and Syria is a main party to the peace process.

Al-Shar' added: There was mutual understanding over the importance of bilateral cooperation to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East within the framework of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. We are optimistic about the prospects of cooperation between our two countries.

Responding to a question on whether the talks also have dealt with economic cooperation, the foreign minister said: There was a serious discussion on reinforcing our relations in all fields, including the economic and commercial fields. On this issue, the Russian side presented its propsals, which will be studied by the officials in Syria. Our initial assessment is that they are constructive and fruitful.

Answering a question on the debts issue, the foreign minister said: We have discussed all aspects of joint bilateral commercial, economic, and investment cooperation, as well as the debts issue. He added: After listening to the vice president, I felt very optimistic about the future of bilateral friendship and cooperation relations in all fields.

Al-Shar' Comments; Departs

LD1209112392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Rostislav Gertsev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep—Following the completion of his working visit to Moscow, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' flew out for Cairo this morning. During the visit he held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Faruq al-Shar' was also received by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

The Russian and Syrian foreign affairs ministers discussed the state and the future of the development of the settlement process in the Near East. The Syrian minister spoke in favor of the search for optimal ways of just settlement in the Near East on the basis of resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the implementation of the principle of "land for peace." He also recalled that Syria sees the Near East settlement as a process consisting of three interconnected stages.

According to him, the first stage is linked with the Madrid peace conference. It is followed by the stage of bilateral negotiations between Arab countries and Israel. The third stage is direct multilateral negotiations. "We must all cooperate to achieve success," Faruq al-Shar' stated, stressing that his country highly appreciates Russia's effective role in the Near East process.

Asked by the ITAR-TASS correspondent about the results of his negotiations with his Syrian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev noted: "We had a very detailed, friendly, and confiding conversation." As a result of movement toward each other by all the participants in the Near East settlement, "a unique chance has appeared to advance the peace process in the region, and this chance must not be missed," Russia's foreign minister stated.

A broad range of questions connected with bilateral relations between Syria and Russia was also discussed during the talks. As Andrey Kozyrev pointed out, they will from now on be based upon an "ideology of good-neighborliness." Faruq al-Shar', in turn, emphasized Syria's readiness to cooperate with Russia. "We live in one region and it would be natural for relations between our countries to be multifaceted," he noted.

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who received the Syrian foreign minister in the Kremlin, called the talks with Faruq al-Shar' an opportunity for verifying the approaches of the sides for the sake of further, constructive development of Russian-Syrian relations. Russia is interested in preserving everything positive that existed in the cooperation between Syria and the former Soviet Union, Aleksandr Rutskoy stated. At the same time, he noted, it is essential to "take stock again of the treaty and legal basis" of Russian-Syrian relations with account having been taken of the new political realities.

Minister Upbeat on Cooperation Prospects With ROK

LD1309211292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Report by V. Stepanyuk in Seoul; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The South Koreans, the closest partners and at the same time competitors of the Japanese in the region, are quite justifiably not taking personally the postponement of the Russian president's visit to Tokyo and Seoul, especially since a new date for the visit to Korea has been set—December of this year. In addition the Koreans have gained a brilliant opportunity to prove to Russia that besides Japan there are other strong partners in the Far East.

[Stepanyuk] Judging by the reaction of Seoul, they have responded with understanding here to the deferment of President Yeltsin's visit to South Korea. The delay in the visit should in no way have an impact on the fate of the

package of mutually advantageous cooperation projects which the leaders of Russian industry recently handed over to the government and the most influential South Korean corporations during their trip to this country. After all, here in Korea Russia will be able to obtain exceedingly solid investments and the latest technology on more beneficial conditions than in other countries, so as to rapidly develop the mass production of high-quality consumer goods with the released capacity of our plants.

[Being Industry Minister Titkin recording] The main thing is the very great goodwill and desire to cooperate, and the absence of any kind of timidity, the absence of apprehension over haggling which is clearly noticeable in other countries, in Europe, in Japan, in America, and so on. Here everything is very open. There is a very good mood, positive, a very constructive one, perhaps, if one may use the old terminology. This is very encouraging. [end recording]

Spokesman Says Position Toward Taiwan Unchanged

LD1409112292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS today that recent press reports of Russia supposedly intending to exchange official missions with Taiwan are "groundless". "Russia is not moving away from its well-known position regarding the Taiwan issue, which excludes in particular the establishment of direct official relations with the island, and has no intention of moving away from it," he said.

Kozyrev Reassures PRC Envoy

LD1309165592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today has been an extremely intensive day at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Immediately after Minister Kozyrev calmed the anxieties of the Japanese ambassador, he had to persuade the Chinese ambassador that, contrary to rumor, we are not opening a consulate in Taiwan and are oriented as before toward Beijin.

The Russian foreign minister received the ambassador of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese side expressed concern over the creation of a Moscow-Taipei commission on economic and cultural cooperation and reports appearing in the Russian press about its functions. Andrey Kozyrev declared that this is a nongovernmental organization set up for the development of economic and cultural ties and assured that it is not imbued with any powers of diplomatic representation in Taiwan.

Official Comments on Talks With FRY's Panic

LD1409112592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ryabinkin]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—"Changes for the better can at last take place in Yugoslavia," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris kolokolov believes. He told ITAR-TASS that, following his meeting on Sunday with chairman of the Yugoslav Government Milan Panic, he got the impression that "the leadership of new Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) really seek to settle the conflict in the country." In his opinion, Yugoslavia's recognition of the existing borders of the republics, previously integrated in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the resolve to work for the establishment of peace, are major steps in that direction.

According to Kolokolov, Russia's stand with regard to Yugoslavia consists in the striving for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Along with the official recognition of Macedonia, Russia is establishing diplomatic relations with all the republics, formerly integrated in Yugoslavia. It is also maintaining relations with new Yugoslavia. Russia believes that Yugoslavia "should not be cornered", because it is really going to put an end to the fratricidal war. Yugoslavia's isolation may "create additional problems, interrupt direct contacts and bring to naught the possibility to influence it."

At the same time, Kolokolov continued, Russia has not yet worked out a clear stand with regard to the intention, announced by member states of the European Community, to expel Yugoslavia from the United Nations Organisation. All will depend on the situation and the steps taken by the conflicting parties.

According to Kolokolov, "the Yugoslav leadership understands Russia's stance, as well as the fact that it is working for the settlement of the military conflict in that country."

Panic Cites Importance of Friendship

LD1309084992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0533 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TANJUG)—"We have come to visit our friends," Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic said early this morning during a stopover in Moscow on his way from Belgrade to Beijing. "Friends are important when one is in trouble, and our country is in trouble at the

moment," Yugoslav Prime Minister Panic said in a brief conversation with Yugoslav correspondents in Moscow.

Panic previously had a brief meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov at Sheremetevo airport. They exchanged views on questions concerning the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, ways of resolving the Yugoslav crisis, and relations between the two countries.

It was announced in Moscow today that Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic and his aides were expected to make another visit to the Russian capital on their way from Beijing. Panic will meet Russian leader Boris Yeltsin on this occasion, according to the announcement, and an exhaustive exchange of views on questions concerning the denouement of the Yugoslav crisis is expected to take place during the meeting.

Yeltsin Says Nuclear Confrontation Threat Over

LD1309015192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The 42d session of the Pugwash Conference has opened in Berlin. It will concentrate on the dangers of and prospects for our common future. The head of the Russian delegation, Vitaliy Goldanskiy, has read out a message of greeting from President Boris Yeltsin. Dr. Goldanskiy is a member of the Pugwash executive committee.

President Yeltsin is pointing out that the threat of direct nuclear confrontation has ceased. He feels humanity must focus on the regional and interethnic conflicts, international terrorism and environmental problems. The international community must work hard to solve these problems.

Interior Ministry Troops Arrive in Dagestan

LD1209175592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent O. Mamedova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] An operative group of the internal troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs has arrived in Dagestan. It consists of the Don special purpose division and the camouflage berets. The military has already visited the republic in summer. At the time when the emergency situation was introduced in the towns of Makhachkala and Kizilyurt, the troops were engaged in confiscating weapons from the population.

[Begin A. Vokulich, head of the operative group of troops, recording] The Russian Interior Ministry troops in Dagestan are currently trying to stop weapons traveling from the Transcaucasus republics and North Caucasus to Russia and are doing their utmost to help the law enforcement bodies to restore law and order in this high crime region. [end recording] [Video shows arrived military and their equipment, mainly tanks and armored personnel carriers]

New Commander Takes Over Transcaucasian Forces

LD1209170292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Vladimir Golovin for TASS]

[Text] Transcaucasian Military District Commander Colonel-General Valeriy Patrikeyev today passed over his post to Commander of the Transcaucasian Russian Group of Forces Lieutenant-General Fedor Reut, under a decree of the Russian president and an order of the Russian Defence Ministry.

Fedor Reut, 46, graduated from the three-year tank courses under the Ulyanovsk Supreme Tank Command School in 1968.

In 1978 he became a graduate of the command department of the Malinovsky Armored Forces' Military Academy and in 1990—the Armed Forces General Staff's Military Academy.

He has been the commander of a tank platoon, a tank company, a tank battalion, a tank regiment, a tank division and a tank corps. Over the past years he was in charge of the 7th Guards Army stationed on Armenian territory.

Reut will be the commander of the Transcaucasian troops till December 31, 1992. On January 1, 1993, he will become the commander of the Russian Group of Forces in Transcaucasia.

Colonel-General Patrikeyev is now under command of the Russian Armed Forces' army commander-in-chief.

Grachev Denies General Transferred From Dniester

OW1109191892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has denied rumours that the commander of the 14th Russian Army in the Dniester region General Lebed was transferred to the Transbaykal Military District. He made this statement on Friday [11 September] at IF's [INTERFAX's] request.

In the opinion of the minister, "These rumours could spread in connection with future personnel changes in the command of the Transbaykal Military District". However, these personnel changes by no means affect General Lebed, the Russian defense minister pointed out.

General Lebed Refutes Rumors

LD1109191492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Despite rumors, General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, is remaining in his old post. Rumors that he will be transferring to the post of deputy commander of the Transbaykal Military District had the effect of an exploding bomb in the Dniester region, ITAR-TASS reports. Replying to a question from this agency, General Lebed said that one should be guided by official sources of information, from which no orders have come. The general himself believes that he is not a platoon commander and such questions as new appointments cannot be tackled without his consent.

Minor Radioactive Leak Reported at Kola Plant

OW1309124192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A leak of radioactive water took place on Saturday [12 September] at the 2d section of the Kola nuclear-power plant in the north-west of Russia. The preliminary estimate of the incident under the international scale of nuclear incidents is zero.

The leak was caused by a break in the "dirty" condensate tank. According to the plant's manager, radioactive water leaked mainly into premises requiring no staff, and only an inconsiderable quantity, 3-5 cubic meters, leaked into an area frequented by people. Measures have been taken to decontaminate the place. According to the manager, no radioactive substances reached the environment; the staff was not exposed to excessive radiation.

Government Sets Deficit Target at R950 Billion

OW1309154492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1528 GMT 13 Sep 92

[From the 14 September "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] For 1992, Russia's total budget expenditures will come to over 3.319 trillion [trn] rubles [R] and the outside limit for the federal deficit should not be more than 950.1 bn [billion] rubles, according to a resolution by the Russian Government on managing the budget for 1992. Current budget expenditures should total 2.54 trn rubles.

At first, according to the budget plan sent by the government to parliament, the budget deficit was set at a level of 300 bn rubles. But parliament demanded an increase, insisting on additional subsidies for industry and social programs.

The government will turn over a large portion of revenues from VAT [value-added tax], excise, alcohol and federal taxes to local authorities. If local authorities delay sending in funds meant for the federal budget, the Russian Government is planning to take harsh action, cutting off supplies of food and goods from state resources and annulling export licenses, etc.

Gaydar Cited on Yeltsin Central Bank Proposal

MK1209083392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Vera Kuznetsova: "Yeltsin and Gaydar Want To Take Central Bank Away From Parliament. Another Round of the Struggle of the Two Powers Takes Place in Cheboksary"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Replying to the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's request to comment on Yeltsin's proposal on the Central Bank's resubordination to the government, Russian Federation Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said: "I would consider such an option to be possible and desirable, albeit temporarily. In the present conditions we need close contact between the government and the bank in order that financial policy is strict. And, that aside, this is not our desire to manipulate the bank or obtain cheap monetary credits from it, but merely an attempt to protect it against political pressure. In law, the bank is subordinate to the Supreme Soviet. This is not the worst option. But it must exclude pressure on the bank." As far as today's conference is concerned, Gaydar said that he had no illusions that the government and the conference participants would perform the dance of friendship and say, kindergarten-fashion: How well we will live in future.

Gaydar on Return of 'Strict' Financial Policies

OW1109165192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting head of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar believes the task of establishing an "average salary in dollar calculations of up to $1,000 a year" is a realistic one. At the end of December 1991, when Russia began reforms, the average salary was $60 a year, and now is approximately $300 a year, commented Gaydar in an interview during his visit to Cheboksary, where a conference of leaders of local bodies of power was held.

"The fall in the course of the ruble-dollar exchange rate in the past four weeks, as is unpleasant for me to admit, was a natural reaction to the actual rise in the amount of money in circulation in the last two months of summer," noted Gaydar. He indicated that it was a result of the departure from strict financial policies to which Russia will have to return.

"The monetary emission in Russia significantly increased the rates we had counted on," reported Gaydar. This is not a cause for panic, he contended, but a reason to make Russia's financial policies more strict in the end of this year.

Gaydar expressed his opinion that the course of the dollar undoubtedly is artificially high in relation to the ruble. "But," he remarked, "this does not hinder us from reaching an average salary of $1,000 within a reasonable period of time, if we ourselves don't stop destroying our own currency with surprising passion."

In answer to a question from an INTERFAX correspondent regarding negotiations held earlier in Moscow with Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, Gaydar pointed out that the negotiations were devoted to settling problems of mutual accounting, which were "very tangled." Gaydar said they agreed on special accounting procedures. "Therefore, Russia will not grant credits to Ukraine and Ukraine will not grant credits to Russia," he explained.

Energy Resources, Production Figures Noted

LD1209061392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0611 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—"I shall have to ask the president to authorise the use of tough measures. We shall have to set strict limits of the consumption of energy resources," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an interivew with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which is published today.

"We produced in 1991 2.3 trillion tonnes of reference fuel. The country has produced 16 billion tonnes of hydrocarbon raw materials since 1917 ... However, we have spent all that money on food," Chernomyrdin said.

"Thanks to the fuel and energy resources we were a superpower ... Now the stabilisation of the fuel and energy complex is the priority task, which will be tackled by enterprises of the military-industrial complex and major research institutions, using the whole of the country's scientific and technological potential."

Strange as it may seem, the higher oil prices—the more difficult it is for oil producers to survive: high prices boomerang on them. Suppliers are already demanding payments in hard currency. This is why the adjustment of prices will be made, but prices should be subordinated to the task of the survival of the oil industry.

Controls Tightened Over Export of Fuel, Energy

OW1409131292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1221 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Beginning December 12 the Russian customhouse will give a permission on export of oil and gas from the Russian territory if the exporter has a license granting a right to use natural resources and appropriate documents defining the kind and volume of the production being exported. The new export order was developed by the Department of customs control and the governmental State Committee on Land-Survey and Using of Natural Resources. The former customs order is in force until December 12.

In his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] an informed expert pointed out that the new order based on the decree on bowels of the earth must prevent abusing in oil and gas export. The present system of granting permissions for export of fuel and energy allows violations. He said that the control will be more strict not only for the export to the former USSR republics but abroad as well.

Deputy Foreign Minister Said Forced To Quit

MK1109120892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by M.K.: "Foreign Ministry Rejects Foreign Body"]

[Text] As has become known to NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA, Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev will officially leave the post of Russian deputy foreign minister on 17 October. His resignation, it is being asserted, has been brought about by a whole range reasons not the least among which is the hostility toward him on the part of career diplomats. Shelov-Kovedyayev is viewed in the Foreign Ministry as a sort of commissar from the democrats. Just recently, assignments concerning matters within his competence have increasingly been given to other deputy ministers. And when he protested against the fact that Russia had made particular concessions to its CIS allies, the heads of these states called Yeltsin directly and rebuked him for the fact that the accords reached between them were allegedly being blocked by some official who was impeding the final adoption of decisions. Thereby the president's word is discredited. According to rumors, following his resignation Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev will concentrate on activity within the Russian Supreme Soviet's Interrepublic Relations, Regional Policy, and Cooperation Committee, and will also—this is quite possible—join one of the sociopolitical movements.

Regional Leaders' Meeting in Cheboksary Ends

Leaders on Executive, Legislative Power

LD1109171692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent Igor Stanovov on the proceedings at the conference of Russian leaders in Cheboksary on 11 September]

[Excerpts] Discussion of the problems of relations between the center and the regions, between the executive and legislative authorities, immediately moved along a quite predictable path. And whereas everyone agreed that at present the place for the reforms to be implemented is the regions and that the initiative is moving away from the center or in any event should move over to them, the problems of relations between the legislative and executive authorities at all levels are so complicated that they immediately surfaced in the form of mutual reproaches which were heard in one form or another in virtually all the speeches.

Russian Procurator General Valentin Stepankov cited many examples discovered by his officials of administrative functions being taken over by the soviets and vice versa. The main reason for this was said to be the unperfected state of Russian legislation on local self-government and the soviets. Proposals were made to improve it or even to put a moratorium on the action of these laws, although there were also proposals that were quite contradictory. In the main these were put forward in a quite proper manner but demands were also heard from the conference tribune to examine who benefits from causing quarrels between the various branches of power in Russia and there were allusions to the routine persecution of the chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet.

Another theme that was quite a sore point for the participants in the conference was the theme of elections. As is known, the Russian president, in his speech in Cheboksary, proposed postponing them again and allowing the present administrations to work for another two and a half years and to allow the deputies to work for their full term. This did not arouse a unanimous reaction in the hall. Some accepted this proposal unconditionally and stated that there is no sense in holding elections under the present Constitution. Some said that they are prepared to hold elections tomorrow but the decision should be made by the Russian Supreme Soviet. Some also proposed that elections should be held only in those

regions where this is required and denied that this would completely paralyze the activity of the executive authorities. No common denominator was found but the discussion is continuing.

[Announcer] In order to illustrate the words of our correspondent about the lively argument that developed over the question of the principles of division of powers, we will give fragments from two speeches. Russian Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov is speaking:

[Begin Federov recording] It is a shame that the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is not here but I have no doubt that everything that is said here will be conveyed to him and that there will be an appropriate response. True, a minute ago I was told that he is holding a conference of representatives of law enforcement bodies. I am somewhat bewildered because this also bears on the question of the division of powers. Excuse me, perhaps this is not very tactful, but the president, in whose exclusive competence are the representatives of the law enforcement bodies, is conducting the conference here, while over there the Supreme Soviet chairman is conducting a meeting or something else.

In general, if one is to speak about the division of powers then the idea of it is not to divide this power in order of size—first, second, and third. In general, the idea of a division of power is a primitive but schematic truth, it is the idea of neutralizing the folly of one power by the independence of the other and vice versa. [end recording]

[Announcer] Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, refuted what had been said by the justice minister.

[Begin Abdulatipov recording] [passage omitted]

Well, he has dealt with Honecker, long live the justice minister, and now he has set on Khasbulatov. Well, these are very petty squabbles to be dealt with at the level of what would seem to be very authoritative and wise people. The horizontal branches of power are the arms of the state, the vertical ones could be the legs of the state, but the state should have only one head. [end recording]

[Announcer] And in order to sort out precisely what sort of head we need, Ramazan Abdulatipov proposed that the present three-headed dragon of the president, government, and Supreme Soviet should reach an amicable agreement between themselves so as to avoid worrying the people with constant squabbles.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, who once again turned up at the conference, agreed with this way of putting the matter. In his opinion, no single one of the heads could singe another without itself being cut off by the sword. And in this the parliamentary speaker sees the guarantee of stability in the political situation in Russia.

Gaydar Says Economic Problems Not New

LD1109124292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar once again demonstrated that he thinks in the same vein as the president. In keeping with tradition, he sought the sources of today's failures in the past, and his quest met with success.

[Begin Gaydar recording] The decline in production in our country did not start in 1992, when economic reform started, but in 1988, when our country's oil boom ended, when Samotlor ran out, when it became clear that the maintaining of oil production required capital investment that was impossible for the country, and a drastic decline in oil output started. A fall in oil production of 200 million [not further specified], is practically like a decline in grain production equivalent to the loss of two harvests in terms of the financial consequences for the country. This is a substantial, real catastrophe for the traditional materials capacity of the production sphere. It has simply started to wear down and to shrink due to the lack of material, financial, energy, and foreign currency resources.

It has become clear that there is no money to provide for grain purchases on the old scale; for purchases of consumer goods; for purchases of meat, articles, and spare parts for imported equipment—to finance the entire huge production apparatus that could not exist without this additional amount. The trouble is that there is no simple solution to this structural crisis. No measures to restructure the economic mechanism can resolve this by themselves. Today we have turned out to have been cast back 20 years. We are forced to return to the same situation that existed at the end of the seventies and lasted 20 years. Scrap metal has not become a smaller part of the social product. The same worn out and inefficient metallurgy has been preserved. The extent to which oil is refined has not increased in our country. The share of dry, compound cement production in our country has remained practically the same. Everything has stayed literally the same as it was in the seventies. For all that, today it looks senselessly archaic.

This is a serious blow to our economy. It is really as if we have been cast back a long way. Today our economy is very close to the stage of collapse in consumption, of famine, and so forth. An analysis shows that today we are very close in all our main indicators—even to the consumption of that time, the volume of meat, milk, vegetable consumption and so forth—to the level of consumption of 1970-1975. So we have simply rolled back 20 years. That is difficult. It is a serious blow, but it means that from this standpoint we must start the serious structural restructuring that the world has undergone in those 20 years. Today, perhaps for the worse, perhaps for the better, we are creating the basis for this deep restructuring by getting the wheels of the market mechanism going. [end recording]

Gaydar on Central, Local Power Talks

LD1209135592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent Gerasimov in Cheboksary, including interview with Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] People will not forgive us if the hardships they now have to endure turn out to be in vain and the reforms do not bring results only because of the quarrels between the two branches of power—the central and local. This has become the core idea in the course of the meeting of the heads of the republics, krays, and oblasts of Russia, which continues here today in Cheboksary.

[Begin recording] [Gerasimov] Yegor Timurovich, to what extent are your expectations for consolidation of the two powers being proved to date?

[Gaydar] Well, I had no illusions of us dancing in complete friendship today, or paying compliments to each other about how wonderfully we will be living after today. Nevertheless, I believe that, in the main, we are having calm talks; political intrigues, which are inevitable in such cases, do not dominate here. There have been many constructive suggestions. Discussion of the practical issues which undoubtedly impede our normal work with the legislative, representative, and executive powers today is continuing. Overall I think that the tone of the meeting is geared to strengthening the interaction between the Russian bodies of power and, generally, toward strengthening Russia. [end recording]

Today the participants in the meeting will familiarize themselves with the work of the Cheboksary city and rayon soviets of the people's deputies, and they will also visit the rural regions of the Chuvash Republic.

Abdulatipov Urges Action in Caucasus

OW1109171992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Ethnic Council of the Russian Parliament Ramazan Abdulatipov directed his speech in Cheboksary to the implementation of the Federative Treaty. Abdulatipov said that the situation in the northern Caucasus demands a more demonstrative reaction from federal authorities in the Russian Federation. This reaction should have been formulated more accurately during the conflict in Abkhazia.

Abdulatipov said the tendency to create parallel power structures is especially pronounced in the northern Caucasus, however, this does not mean that there is no so-called "Russian question". Abdulatipov said it is dangerous to hand the "Russian question" over to agressive nationalist forces. He said the resurrection of the Russian nation, and Russian culture is a matter of crucial importance for the entire Russian Federation and the CIS.

Abdulatipov criticized attempts of political forces from the Baltic states to build an ethnocratic state, rather than a democratic society, where people are persecuted for their ethnic origin.

Chubays Comments on Privatization

LD1109205792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, deputy chairman of the Russian Government, has stated that the country will enter the period of national privatization this month. All economic and juridical prerequisites have been created for it. Chubays stressed at today's conference in Cheboksary that privatization is already yielding state revenue and making people's economic situation easier.

Yeltsin Positive on Outcome

LD1109172192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alekandrova and Gennadiy Tallalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today returned to Moscow from the city of Cheboksary where he had taken part in a all-Russia assembly of the leaders of republics, territories, regions and autonomies of the Russian Federation.

Before leaving Cheboksary, Boris Yeltsin told correspondents that he had found the conference useful. Most participants agreed that the legislative and executive branches of power must interact, Yeltsin said.

As for the situation in Russia as a whole, Yeltsin stressed that "the people have gone through the most difficult times, the most difficult part of the road is behind although there will be many difficulties ahead".

Khasbulatov Praises Yeltsin Speech

LD1209203492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov of the Russian Supreme Soviet, who took part in the republican conference of leaders of soviets and heads of administrations in the Russian Federation, continued familiarizing himself with Chuvashia on 12 September. Our special correspondent Igor Stanovov reports.

[Stanovov] In the morning, having visited an exhibition of consumer goods in Cheboksary, the speaker of the parliament flew to one of the southern rayons of the

republic—Komsomolskiy rayon. [passage omitted on comment on the pre-perestroika style of the visit] This part of the program sounds somewhat out of modern context. On the contrary, at a meeting in the village house of culture where chairmen of village soviets and administration heads of seven rayons of Chuvashia assembled, the speaker of the parliament talked of very up-to-date things: economic reform, whose program he supports and the relationship between the soviets and the executive power.

And of course, Ruslan Khasbulatov did not fail to pay some attention to the results of the all-Russian conference of soviet chairmen and administration heads, which has just finished in Cheboksary.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] There have been no mutual attempts to injure or insult, or to say: It is the executive power that is to blame, or, vice versa, to tell the representatives of the legislative power that they are to blame. There was, you know, a kind of dialogue, all the speakers tried to find some common ground.

I think in this respect a powerful tendency has taken shape toward a unification—frankly speaking, this is something that I have been calling for over the last six months or more—some attempt to form a civil unity. And it is very important that major leaders in the region have come up with this on their own.

Everyone knows by now I am no flatterer, but the president's very good and successful speech at the very beginning—just in this constructive vein, from the point of view of a statesman pondering the destinies of his motherland—this has, to a great extent, set the tone for the constructive discussion at the Cheboksary conference. [end recording]

Khasbulatov Urges Adjusting Reform

LD1209190992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1510 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The conference of chairmen of soviets and heads of administration in the Republics, krays, and oblasts of the Russian Federation has ended in Cheboksary. Our correspondent (?Valeriy) Nikonov asked Ruslan Khasbulatov to review the results of this meeting for Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian.

[Khasbulatov] It really is an important breakthrough when both the supreme political leadership and the middle echelon of administration—in the regions and provinces—come to realize that the implementation of reform is the responsibility of everybody. Therefore, one should not try to monopolize decisionmaking in this area, one should not try to force people to accept decisions. Policy must be coordinated and agreed upon.

If you were paying attention to the president's speech, you will notice that it was imbued with the spirit of accord and awareness of the need for coordination with all political forces, of the need to win their support. I believe that, at this fourth all-Russian conference of leaders, a qualitative step was taken toward a realization of the fact that we have had enough confrontation of various kinds, enough squabbling, enough denunciation, and frankly, enough intrigue. Millions of people are longing for change. But they do not want their standard of living to deteriorate.

Therefore, we must strive to ensure, first, that there is peace, civic peace, accord, and, second, that our affairs go better than they are going at the moment.

Consequently, it is essential to make serious adjustments to economic reform, to have a correct understanding of the way people in the provinces are thinking, and not to idealize their mood. Their mood is far from ideal. People are worried about a deterioration in their situation. They are demanding—quite justifiably, of course—that Moscow adjust its course in some way and improve their living conditions. I think that an understanding of realities was achieved at this conference.

Tatarstan's Shaymiyev on Session

OW1109173092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev said the meeting in Cheboksary represents a turnaround in public opinion of the Russian Federation to its creation. In an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] Shaymiyev said that because of this representatives of all power structures in the center and in regions are constantly looking for ways to strengthen cooperation on a new equal basis.

The Tatar leader said this basis should be jointly developed tax policy and method for the division of ownership. Approaches to these issues can be different for various regions and territories of Russia.

Shaymiyev said most of the responsibility for social welfare during the shift to a market economy has been artificially placed on the regionally budgets, which are operating at a deficit.

Shaymiyev said the opportunity for a broad economic manuever will allow Russian Federation subjects to more actively participate in economic reform "which currently has no opponents in Russia".

Shaymiyev Approves Yeltsin Speech

LD1309161392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The conference of the heads of the representative and executive powers of the republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomies within Russia, held by Boris Yeltsin in Cheboksary, was very constructive and created a very favorable impression. This is how the meeting was assessed by Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev in a conversation with a RIA correspondent.

He singled out the Russian president's words on the necessity to shake off the traditional opinion that Russia is still a unitary state, since it is this approach that hinders the implementation of reforms. If Russia's leadership shifts the gravity of the reform process to the localities, then appropriate powers should also be transferred to the localities today, the Tatarstan president stressed.

One would like to believe that assurances, voiced at the Cheboksary conference by the Russian leadership, will be embodied in appropriate legislative and normative acts, he said.

Officials on Meeting's Usefulness

LD1309084692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The conference of chairmen and representatives of soviets and heads of administration of the republics, krays, and oblasts in Russia is continuing its work today in Cheboksary. Here is Yevgeniy Nikonov, our correspondent in Cheboksary, with the details.

[Nikonov] The second day of the conference is quite special. There are no sittings, reports, or debates. After splitting into groups, the conference participants will tour the republic, its industry and agriculture. Incidentally, that is a very convenient opportunity for getting to know each other better and making contacts. Many of those I have talked to point out that that opportunity is one of the greatest advantages of the meeting. It can be said that agreements, contracts for cooperation, and the exchange of output are being concluded while on the move.

The press center has issued the following information: Over 400 of the most senior leaders from 88 republics, krays, and oblasts in the Russian Federation have met in Cheboksary. Around 300 assorted media, including the Japanese television company NHK, have sent representatives to cover the progress of the conference. The pronouncements of the Russian president and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet have been given quite a high fruitfulness rating at the meeting.

What about other opinions? Well, to sum them up quickly, Deputy Sergey Baburin, one of the leaders of the opposition, thinks that it is the swan song of the soviets and representative power. Commenting on the president's proposal not to hold elections for the heads of local administrations in December this year, in order to let them end their term in peace, as Yeltsin said, Baburin assessed it as not asserting the needs of the state. Aman Tuleyev, chairman of Kemerovo oblast soviet of people's deputies, said that he is not sure anything will change after the conference.

St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has a different view. The chief misfortune today, he said, is the lack of any demarcation in the powers of the federal authorities and those of the authorities in the localities, and of executive and representative power in the center and in the regions. We have assembled in order to make up our minds to cut out what is superfluous: Give to God that which is God's, and to Caesar that which is Caesar's. Unquote. Such is the range of opinions.

At the moment, as I am transmitting my report, Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov and acting Prime Minister Gaydar are, together with a group of conference participants, touring the republic.

Commentary Views Meeting

LD1109204892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Commentary by Igor Stanovov on the meeting of heads of republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomous regions within the Russian Federation in Cheboksary on 11 September; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The gathering is now over. Winding up the first day's proceedings, Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said that it was an attempt to find a common language. We can draw certain conclusions. First, the actual fact that a conference took place with heads of councils and administrations, and also top people from both branches of authority, is worthy of note. There was probably no confrontation visible between their representatives. On the contrary, the overall tone of the speeches gave rise to hopes of reconciliation, although there were plenty of mutual complaints and rebukes. This is probably because, as the parliamentary speaker said, there is no sense in conflict there since neither authority has the legal means to suppress the other, no matter how much it might wish to do so. For this reason, they are doomed to coexist. It is best to do this in a friendly way, as was also pointed out many times, although it was not explained how. As far as the economic part of the conference's program was concerned, it passed off almost unnoticed amidst all the exchanges of opinions and distribution of powers. The inexplicable optimism of Yegor Gaydar, the acting head of government, knew no bounds, while others were more restrained in their assessments of the progress of reform. The most specific outcome of the conference, most likely, was the Russian president's signing of a decree on state support for Chuvashia's social and economic development, plus a promise from Ruslan Khasbulatov to sort out the notorious problem of choosing administration heads. As a flexible way out, the speaker proposed a solution based on mutual trust between local soviets and the heads of local administrations. That is the view from the sidelines, however. This is what those who actually took part thought. Here is Boris Nemtsov, head of the Nizhniy Novgorod administration:

[Nemtsov] "I thought that the conference was not just a routine measure, but finally laid the foundations for a new federalism; that is, for an understanding by both the government and local authorities of their new role. I

think that the government has not yet fully understood its new role, and this is dangerous because trends toward disintegration could take over."

Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet:

[Abdulatipov] "I would like to be convinced that everyone here was sincere when speaking about their intentions to stop the politicking and infighting while they forget about the state interests of these [word indistinct] people."

Yuriy Matochkin, head of the Kaliningrad oblast administration:

[Matochkin] "It did not fill me with much optimism. I would put it this way: It was a look at each other's positions before the next round of the political fight starts."

Sergey Baburin, member of the Russian Supreme Soviet:

[Baburin] "I think that the conference provided only one result, but it was a result to be welcomed. That is, administration and council leaders got together and laid out before each other all their pains and problems, and tried to understand each other. I am not convinced that they actually did understand each other, however."

[Announcer] On 12 September the conference participants, together with the Supreme Soviet chairman, the acting head of cabinet, and members of the government will set off for a factfinding trip to an agricultural region of Chuvashia and to Cheboksary industrial installations.

Yeltsin Pledges Cheboksary Residents Improvements

LD1109212992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by D. Chukseyev in Cheboksary, including recorded remarks by President Boris Yeltsin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Chukseyev] After the Cheboksary meeting had ended and Russia-wide problems had been discussed, President Yeltsin concentrated on the problems facing the inhabitants of Cheboksary in his traditional way of communicating with the working people. It took place both on the streets of the city and at the Khimmash enterprise, which produced chemical weapons until 1986.

[Yeltsin] I have to say to Leonid Sergeyevich that it is lower than throughout Russia as a whole. [crowd noise] The average wage throughout Russia in August was 5,600 rubles.

[Chukseyev] It was chiefly because of this that there is a bus drivers' strike in the city at the moment. Nevertheless, the president expressed the hope that the Cheboksary meetings will help to deepen the economic reforms, stabilize the financial system, and raise the living standards of the people of Chuvashiya.

Before he flew to Moscow, the president reinforced his hopes with a specific statement:

[Yeltsin] Today, I signed a decree on supporting the socioeconomic development of the Chuvash Republic and I congratulate you on this.

National Affairs

Ministry Official on Nuclear Weapons' Policy

LD1309204292 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine's position of principle regarding strategic nuclear weapons consists of the idea that they must be destroyed within a period of seven years. This was stated by Kostyantyn Hryshchenko, representative of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine, dealing with issues of arms limitation and disarmament.

He stressed that nuclear weapons must be under a single operational command, and adminstrative issues must be settled by the Defense Ministry of Ukraine and by other government institutions. As far as control over the use of nuclear weapons is concerned, Kostyantyn Hryshchenko said that Ukraine insisted on implementing technical measures that would assure the Ukrainian side that strategic nuclear missiles will not be launched from its territory against other countries of the world. There is certain progress now, the representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry stressed, but the Ukrainian side is not completely satisfied on this issue.

Kravchuk Meets Party Leaders for Discussions

LD1209154192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting took place today between President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine and leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party, political parties, and public organizations that are grouped around Rukh and New Ukraine. The main issues discussed at the meeting were the setting up of a transitional government of reforms, cadre policy, guaranteeing that parties and public organizations can function, and the issue of equal access to mass media by political forces.

The opinion of those present on the defects of the draft of the new constitution of Ukraine was made known to the president in his capacity of co-chairman of the Constitutional Commission.

In spite of differences on a number of issues, the participants of the meeting expressed their satisfaction with the frankness and constructive nature of the conversation which took place, and agreed to hold such working meetings regularly.

Supreme Soviet Leaders Meet Media Representatives

LD1209160992 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] A working meeting with leaders of the republican mass media took place in the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, spoke about the basic trends and the particularities of the work of the sixth session of the twelfth convocation, whose plenary session will begin, as is known, on 15 September.

At the session, particular attention will be paid to the preparation of a group of laws on issues of radical economic reform. The session should adopt a number of legislative acts for the further implementation of judicial and legal reform and, increasingly, the struggle against crime. A group of draft laws will be examined on issues of military building and national security.

Mykola Spys, chairman of the Commission on Glasnost and the Mass Media, informed participants in the meeting about the work on a group of laws on the legal guarantees on the activity of mass information.

Trade Union Sets Citizens' Rights Protection Fund

LD1209175892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk September 11 TASS—An inter-regional public fund for assistance to privatization and protection of the population has been set up in Donetsk by the regional council of the Vozrozhdeniye Trade Union of Staffers of Small Cooperative and other Non-State Firms.

"Members of our trade union have survived all the problems labor collectives and individuals will inevitably face during the privatization," said Council Chairman Aleksandr Kramarenko.

"We have suffered a lot from poorly considered and inconsistent actions of the government and the Supreme Soviet, including their attempt to infringe the legitimate rights of entrepreneurs when putting antedate into effect the law on taxation.

"That is why we intend to render free consultation, legal and other assistance to everybody - enterprise workers, farmers, pensioners, students and other poorly protected layers of the population. All our commercial structures, which have an experience of working with securities and stocks, have been involved in the fund."

The fund will not only consult the population, it will also fully and objectively inform it on the progress of privatization in the region.

Belarus

Military Leaders Charged With Corruption

OW1109140692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The military prosecutor of Belarus has brought cases against several military leaders. Among the leaders are the Commander of the 5th tank army Lieutenant General Rumyantsev and Commander of the 7th tank army Colonel General Ivanitskiy. "IF" [INTERFAX] learned General Ivanitskiy will be arrested soon. Both commanders of the defense ministry were relieved of their duties.

Belarus's main military prosecutor, Major General Anatoliy Glyukov said that among other violations the two may be charged with the illegal trade of military property. The military prosecutor's office said over the last 8 months crime among the armed forces has increased 2.5 times; Glyukov said this was brought on by the disbandment of political organs which "were very poor but served as a preventive organ in the armed forces".

General Glyukov denied accusations that Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy was involved with clans and abused his position. The military prosecutor told "IF" that he doubts the armed forces of other former Soviet republics will prosper.

Shushkevich Views Independence Process

LD1109165292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The establishment of the de facto independence of the Republic of Belarus is a long process, Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich said. He said one or even two years will not be enough to implement this plan. Thus far, Belarus looks at Russia as a source of raw material without which it will not be able to exist, head of the Belarusian parliament said. Stanislav Shushkevich also said he believes in the viability of the Commonwealth of the Independent States. In the opinion of the head of the Belarusian parliament it will help the republics of the former Union to get involved in European integration.

Government Accussed of Concessions to Russia

OW1309172292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Premier of the Belarusian shadow Cabinet of Ministers Vladimir Zabolotskiy put forward accusations against the head of the government Vyacheslav Kebich and the head of the parliament Stanislav Shushkevich that they make "various political concessions" to Russia in response to more low prices for the Russian oil.

Zabolotskiy sharply criticized "unserious hopes" of Premier Kebich that Russia will go on supply a certain part of oil to Belarus for prices lower than the world ones. He declared that "earlier or later the mechanism of the market relations will force Russia to sell oil to the CIS countries for world prices". "In the near future the Belarusian people will pay for the short-sighted policy of Kebich and for the political concessions which he makes in respect to Russia", the premier of the shadow cabinet, V. Zabolotskiy, warns.

Moldova

Romania Wants Moldova in Sphere of Influence

LD1309195392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 13 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest September 13 TASS—Romania must have Moldova in its sphere of influence, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase said in an interview with the "MERIDIAN" newspaper published on Sunday [13 September].

Nastase noted that if the unification did not take place, the new government should take care not to let Moldova fall under the influence of other countries.

Nastase admitted that he was often criticised for his poor efforts to promote the unification of Moldova with Romania.

At the same time Nastase pointed out that none of his opponents ever suggested "concrete variants" for the solution of the problem.

Many people do not seem to understand that Romania and Moldova are not the only residents on the island, and they cannot do all what comes to their minds, Nastase added.

"It is not clear why Mircea Druk (former Moldovan prime-minister and, currently, a candidate to Romanian presidency - TASS comment) came to Romania to pursuade us that the unification is necessary. We have long realised this. Today, this problem should be resolved in Moldova, while we have not got any signals from it," Nastatse pointed out.

"We can send our Army to Moldova and have Moldova joined to Romania by force. This is one of the variants, however, I do not think we can let ourselves do so," Nastase said.

He said he disapproved of the fact that Romania was excluded from a quadripartite mechanism of the Moldovan settlement. He believes Romania's interest in Moldova has been legalised by the signatures of the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers. "These documents cannot be annuled and I would suggest to my opponents reading them once again," the Romanian foreign minister said.

As to the agreement on a ceasefire in the region, signed by Russian and Moldovan Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur, the Romanian foreign minister said that it testified to the fact that "the button of the military conflict" was in Moscow.

"If I were Yeltsin's aide, I would advise him not to sign this document, since it confirms Russia's definite inteference in the conflict," Nastase added.

He pointed out that if Chisinau and Romania voiced a mutual desire for the unification, Romania must clearly realise what economic difficulties it would face, as it would have to provide serious material assistance to Moldova.

Tiu Returns From Trip; Makes Statement

AU1209191092 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Report by Gabriel Ionescu in Chisinau]

[Text] Nicolae Tiu, foreign minister of the Republic of Moldova, has returned from Minsk, where he attended the meeting of the foreign ministers of CIS countries, and from Istanbul, the city that hosted the special meeting of the ministerial committee of the Council of Europe, in which foreign ministers of the independent countries that once belonged to the USSR were also invited to participate.

Mr. Tiu stated upon his return that during the Minsk meeting they discussed the schedule of the CIS summit meeting to be held on 25 September in Kyrgyzstan. He highlighted the fact that Moldova has to be very cautious in every further step it will take to avoid contributing to the creation of a new union that could jeopardize the independence of the [Moldovan] state.

Talking about the Istanbul meeting, Mr. Tiu stated that the Republic of Moldova has handed in its application for full membership in the Council of Europe. That organization is to examine on 30 September the granting of the statute of special guest to Moldova, the Republic of Byelarus, and Ukraine.

Mr. Tiu also said: [Begin recording] Concerning the [Dniester] conflict, we have drawn attention to the fact that in a regrettable way, the opposing side—in spite of the agreement signed by Moldova and Russia to peacefully settle the conflict through peacekeeping forces—is deliberately undertaking provocative actions which are meant to nullify the measures stipulated by our agreement. We have, therefore, asked the Council of Europe to designate a group of experts in human rights and send it to that region to examine the situation. [end recording]

During the Istanbul meeting, the Moldovan foreign minister also had contacts with his Turkish, Polish, Hungarian, and Italian counterparts, during which they discussed various aspects of bilateral relations.

I would also like to mention that the steering body of the Movement of Fighters of the Republic of Moldova held a meeting yesterday in Chisinau, during which they decided that the congress of that newly created mass organization should be held on 26-27 September. All persons who have participated in the armed conflict for the defense of Moldova's independence and integrity have been invited to attend the proceedings of the congress.

Dniester President Sets Up Border Guard

LD1209180392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1828 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—A decree of Dniester President Igor Smirnov has been published in Tiraspol today to create a border unit with the aim of "enhancing the safety of republican borders and citizens living on its territory," the Tiraspol OLVIA-PRESS NEWS AGENCY told ITAR-TASS.

The unit to be within the structure of the republican State Security Ministry will ensure border control on the republican borders. The state security minister has been instructed to prepare documents regulating the activities and strength of the border unit before September 30.

It was decided to establish on September 15 customs control over exports of products and goods from Dniester territory to prevent uncontrolled exports of agricultural products and consumer goods and ensure the balance of the internal market.

It is also expected to elaborate models of licences and procedure of their granting before September 13. By September 15 the republican Justice Ministry is expected to submit draft regulations on customs service for approval.

Ban on Moscow Papers Lifted; Subscriptions Rate Down

PM1409101192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 92 p 3

[RIA report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Ban on Moscow Publications in Moldova Lifted"]

[Text] Chisinau, 8 Sep—Moldova has lifted the ban on the Moscow publications whose distribution on the republic's territory was suspended because of their stance on the Dniester Region conflict. The Moldovan authorities' sanctions affected, in particular, the newspapers KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, and even PIONERSKAYA PRAVDA. However, despite the ban's cancellation, the rate of subscription to Moscow newspapers and journals in the republic is many times down on last year's. The main reason is the incredibly high prices. At the same time, the number of subscribers to Romanian periodical publications, which have kept their previous subscription rates, has increased.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Promises Aid for Plant Conversions

OW1309130192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1215 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During his tour of Akmolinsk (formerly Tselinograd) Region President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited defence plants placed under Kazakhstan's jurisdiction. The leaders of the Tselinny chemical plant familiarized him with the technology of gold and diamonds production the plant had mastered.

They told the President that financial aid, including hard currency support, is needed to obtain high-quality gold.

N.Nazarbayev backed the program for converting local plants and assured their workers that he will give them comprehensive aid in resolving local problems.

Nazarbayev on Ruble Zone, Integration of Research

OW1309172192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev received the participants of the symposium held in Alma-Ata on development of international scientific and economic relations in the system of the agricultural-industrial complex. Addressing the audience, he pointed out that the current situation in the republics of the former USSR, the recession of production, the economic crisis necessitate revival of the disrupted economic and other relations.

The President stressed that Kazakhstan stands for preserving the ruble zone, a single economic and credit-monetary space. He said that the republic will introduce its own currency only if all other CIS countries do this.

Nazarbayev noted that an integration of scientific research will assist the authorities in finding effective forms and methods of transfer to the market relations in such important spheres as denationalization of property, improvement of investment policy, establishing of viable contacts with foreign businessmen.

Production Falls 13 Percent; Measures Taken

LD1209200492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Kazakhstan: The slump in production in the country currently amounts to 13 percent in relation to last year. Moreover, the volume of production has decreased at almost half of all enterprises, the NeGa Agency reports. Only oil workers have good results. The extraction of oil and gas has increased.

[Correspondent D.Baimbetov] Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, met those taking part in a scientific and practical symposium. The sharp reduction in the production of agricultural produce and the foodstuffs crisis that has enveloped all of the republics of the former Union have forced agricultural experts from Central Asia, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Kazakhstan to get together.

They can see a way out of the impasse via the reinstatement of scientific forces, which have been torn apart, and via close cooperation between scholars in all branches of agriculture. This is why a decision was made at the Alma-Ata meeting to set up a Council of the Presidents of the Academies of Agrarian Sciences of the CIS Countries [sovet presidentov akademiy agrarnykh nauk stran SNG] and a Scientific Council for Problems of the Agrarian and Economic Integration of the Commonwealth States [nauchnyy sovet po problemam agrarno-ekonomicheskoy integratskii gosudarstva sodruzhestva].

The scholars also analyzed the operation of the new forms of organizing labor in rural areas, such as peasant and private farms, associations, and leased enterprises, as well as the prospects for developing these.

200,000 Unemployed Registered in Southern Oblast

LD1209192392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Among the 2 million people of South Kazakhstan Oblast, there are now about 200,000 unemployed. Unfortunately, recent students leaving school and servicemen demobilized from the army also fall into this category.

The oblast's first job center for unemployed youth has been set up in Abayskiy rayon of Shimkent [formerly Chimkent]. It has already received its first visitors. They are willing to accept any job so long as it guarantees them a wage. The center's services will also be used by major industrial enterprises and cooperatives.

Accord Signed With PRC Friendship Society

LD1309203192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] An agreement on cooperation, for the next five years, has been signed between Kazakhstan's society for friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries and the Chinese people's association for friendship with foreign countries. The initiative for signing the agreement belongs to the Chinese side, which even back last year, was pressing to do so, although unofficial links between Kazakstan and China have existed for a very long time.

The Kazakhstan-China society began its activities back in 1958. It is the oldest one and the only one through which our countries had contact for a long time.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Orders Foreign Economic Activity Inspection

OW1109202992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1846 GMT 11 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev has instructed the State Committee for Investments and the National Bank to inspect the republic's foreign-economic activity and to evaluate its export and import potential by October 1, 1992.

Director of the State Committee for Investments and Kyrgyzstan's State Secretary Ednan Karabayev told IF [INTERFAX] that this measure was vital for assessing the situation, and for coordinating the activity of governmental and non-governmental bodies. Karabayev believes that the inter-governmental agreements concluded with foreign partners are not bringing the expected results. He said that the government is insufficiently informed of the contracts which commercial enterprises and organization conclude with foreign companies.

Among the goals of the inspection is to see that the humanitarian aid coming in from abroad is adequately distributed.

Akayev Decree Changes Telegraph Agency Status

OW1109203392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1847 GMT 11 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decree issued by Askar Akayev transformed the telegraph agency into "the state information agency under the government of Kyrgyzstan". Akbar Ryskulov was appointed director of the new information structure; Ryskulov had previously headed the president's press service. 26 year old Kabay Karabekov became the president's new assistant and head of the press service; Karabekov had earlier worked as a correspondent in the department of social and political information for the city newspaper "EVENING BISHKEK". [INTERFAX in English at 1011 GMT on 11 September in a similar report adds: "The press-service's new chief is the 26-year-old Kabay Karabekov, President Akayev's personal secretary, who before that was a political correspondent for the newspaper 'Vecherniy Bishkek'."]

State Secretary Karabayev said "in spite of his youth Karabekov has earned the respect of his colleagues for bold, straight-forward reporting". Karabekov is always able to evaluate the situation objectively, the state secretary said.

Karabayev stressed that Karabekov "will bring a fresh start to the presidential staff, which until now has been rather weak". The state secretary said the status of the leader of the press service has been raised since he will be both assistant to the president and can deliver political statements. Karabayev said the press service staff will also be increased (from three to ten people).

"IF" [INTERFAX] NOTE: Karabekov studied journalism at the Tomsk and Krygyz state universities; he is married and has one daughter.

Tajikistan

Officials Deny Knowledge of Nabiyev's Activities

LD1209101192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0925 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 September—Leninabad oblast authorities have stated that they know nothing about Rakhman Nabiyev, Tajikistan's former president, who is allegedly in the oblast, engaging in certain political activities. This is reported by the KHOVAR local news agency citing a statement by the press center of Leninabad oblast soviet executive committee. The spokesmen of the oblast soviet executive committee's press center gave assurances that Rakhman Nabiyev has not appeared in any of the mass media, has had no meetings with any officials, and has moreover not notified the oblast's leadership of his arrival in Khudzhand (the administrative center of Leninabad oblast).

Further Clashes Reported in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast

LD1409110392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a report from Tajikistan that armed clashes are taking place in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast between armed groups from various political organizations. Interethnic tension and disharmony within various Tajik ethnic groups themselves are increasing.

Kulyab Leaders Announce General Mobilization

LD1109202692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The removal of Rakhman Nabiyev as president of Tajikistan has not brought about a stabilization of the situation in that Central Asian republic, and reports continue to be received from Tajikistan about armed

clashes between the various political groups and clans that are struggling for power.

The leaders of Kulyab Oblast, where the main stronghold of the former president's supporters is situated, have announced a general mobilization. In the meantime, the Leninabad Oblast administration has asked the United Nations to send a special mission to Tajikistan to seek the way to a peaceful solution of the bloody conflict.

Formation of Self-Defense Regiment Noted

OW1109170292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the Kurgan-Tyubinskiy region, where the conflict between armed factions of differing political orientation still rages, the formation of a self-defense regiment has begun.

Deputy Director of the region's Administrative Committee on National Security Colonel Vladimir Ermoshin [name and title as received] reported that the regiment will take it upon itself to defend production facilities, and will stop the marauding and thievery which have become widespread in the conflict zone.

According to Ermoshin, the situation in Kurgan-Tyube and the neighboring areas has stabilized somewhat, although daily activities in the regional center remain paralyzed. Stores, businesses, and schools are closed.

Famous Tajik film director Davlat Khudonazarov, who was a rival of Rakhman Nabiyev in the last presidential elections from the opposition side, sees the way out of the republic's crisis situation in the creation of an advisory counsel under the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet which would contain representatives from all parties and social movements, as well as national minorities.

Ostankino TV Accused of Distorted Reporting

LD1309215692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 92

[from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Tajik Supreme Soviet's press center has issued a statement accusing Ostankino Television of another distortion of events in Kurgan-Tyube oblast, in the south of the republic. According to the parliamentary press center, the report on the formation of an armed national guard in Kurgan-Tyube oblast does not help to stabilize the situation.

Well, I should like to remark myself that the report on the creation of a national guard was correct, as also follows from the statement by the Tajik Supeme Soviet's press center. It was Ostankino which was incorrect to broadcast the report, citing sources, naturally, INTERFAX and others. The Supreme Soviet Presidium, the press center's statement says, reserves the right to consider the matter of halting the transmission of Ostankino Television in Tajikistan. Russian Television and Mayak Radio have not been transmitted in the republic for almost a month now.

Situation Update; TV Reception Remains Limited

LD1309103792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that throughout yesterday and overnight, the situation remained relatively calm in the vicinity of Kurgan-Tyube and in Tajikistan as a whole. No armed clashes were registered.

Things are normal in the Tajik capital. The World Forum of Tajiks remains the chief event there.

Nevertheless, the republic's inhabitants are still only able to receive two television channels—the local and Ostankino channels. Relaying facilities for the Rossiya and Uzbek channels are still switched off. Technical facilities for transmitting television material to Moscow are also cut off.

Muslim Leader on Nabiyev, Islamic State

LD1109205192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2023 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 11 TASS—"The further stay of President Rakhman Nabiyev on his post would lead to a greater aggravation of the political and economic situation in the republic," Tajik Muslim Kadi Haji Akbar Turajonzoda told local and foreign correspondents, commenting on their request on the recent political developments in Tajikistan, including the unexpected resignation of President Nabiyev.

He said "in case the president signed his resignation under pressure, the more so he does not deserve support".

Speaking on the recent dramatic events in the Kurgan-Tyubinsk region, where after relative lull armed clashes between the warring groups have reoccurred, the Kadi lamented people of one religion are dying in the strife and, nevertheless, accused the president's supporters of the conflict aggravation. He said the president is traditionally supported by the Kulyab region population, where pro-Communist aspirations have always been strong, and people coming from the region.

Asked about concern of both Tajik non-native population and representatives of other states over a possibility of creation of an Islamic state in Tajikistan, the Muslim kadi said the only condition to create the Islamic statehood is the readiness of the people itself to the act, the observation by their majority of Islamic legal norm of everyday life and its high religious education.

All this will require at least 60-80 years. The Islamic state based on feelings and emotions will not last for long. It can be created and really exist only on belief, state the Muslim church head.

Iskandarov, Other Leaders Fly to Kurgan-Tyube

LD1309155492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] A large group of Tajik leaders and public representatives flew out to Kurgan-Tyube oblast today. The group is headed by Akbarsho Iskandarov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. It is not yet known exactly where talks will take place. The aim of the trip is to try and normalize the situation in the conflict area.

Communist Party Issues Statement on Situation

LD1209191592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The leadership of the Tajik Communist Party has made a statement in connection with events in the republic that underlines that the situation in the republic has gone out of the control of the power bodies and also the president, who have failed to stop the fratricidal confrontation. An internal political conflict is taking on an international character. The way to peace and accord, the statement says, is through negotiations and the observation of the constitution and lawfulness.

The statement of the presidium of the Communist Party central committee mentioned the augmenting of the state border and the speedy disarmament of all unofficial armed formations, among other measures. The Communist Party leaders also speak in favor of adopting a new constitution and holding elections to the national assembly on a multi-party basis.

Afghan Border Violation Problem Aired

LD1309212492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 92

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Galina Gridneva and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Dushanbe, 13 September—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains very complicated, but border troops are confident that they will be able to keep it under control. This is the opinion of Colonel Valeriy Kochenov, commander in chief of the operational group of the Central Asian border district.

Today he told the ITAR-TASS correspondents that border troops have already intercepted almost 730 border violators this year. The situation has been especially tense since May, because these people are mostly envoys going to Afghanistan for weapons and coming back with their arms full. Last night alone about 20 people were stopped. They were trying to cross the border in both directions. Several machineguns, grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition were confiscated from one of the groups.

Valeriy Kochenov believes that the problem of border violators will only become more complicated in the near future. He noted that according to the most modest estimates, there are about 400 people on the other side who crossed earlier and will now be trying to get back. Obviously they do not intend to surrender. Nevertheless, Colonel Kochenov is convinced that it is possible to manage this situation. In particular, the deployment of an additional contingent of 1,000 from several CIS countries to reinforce border defense has had a positive impact.

Talking about border problems, he mentioned two aspects: The absence of judicial support on the part of the local administration and the lack of normal interaction with the local population. Valeriy Kochenov gave examples of incidents when border troops had to release border violators because local administration would not start a criminal investigation despite all the evidence of a crime and of border violations. There are people who have made a career out of border crossing, but there are also those who are simply intimidated and are not willing to cooperate with the border troops because of that.

3 Afghan Instructors Detained

LD1109223892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The staff of Russian troops in Central Asia reported that three instructors from Afghanistan, who were inspecting how weapons sent to Tajikistan from Afghanistan for independent military formations are used and applied, were detained in Tajikistan recently.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Views Regional Tension, Tajikistan

PM1109152092 Paris LIBERATION in French 8 Sep 92 p 16

[Interview with President Islam Karimov by Marc Delpho in Tashkent; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tashkent— [passage omitted]

[Delpho] Does Tajikistan's instability worry you?

[Karimov] Uzbekistan borders on the north and east of Tajikistan. There cannot be any real border between our two countries. The Tajik problem is a time bomb which could cause another conflict like Karabakh here, but a hundred times worse. Especially because the situation is influenced by what is happening in Afghanistan. I know that there are Stingers in Tajikistan which have come from there. The border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan no longer exists. Every day groups cross it with weapons and drugs. The CIS

border guards wonder exactly what they are defending. A week ago, Belarus recalled its soldiers stationed in this region, the Russians will do likewise and the border will be opened. (Tajik—LIBERATION editor's note) President Rakhman Nabiyev has no power, he is paralyzed. He is a puppet (Footnote) (This interview was conducted before Nabiyev fled). It is the fundamentalists who now run everything in his country, they have 15,000 armed men, the militia (police—LIBERATION editor's note) is paralyzed, and the army does not exist. Imagine if the Afghans decided to return to Tajikistan in force, who could defend that country? More than 1.3 million Uzbeks live there, in other words 25 percent of the population....

[Delpho] Some people in the West fear that territorial demands made by certain countries might destabilize Central Asia. Is that a real risk?

[Karimov] No. All the peoples of Central Asia live in a common area and for 1,000 years have had the same religion, the same culture, the same language—the different variants of Turkish—aside, of course, from the Tajiks who speak Persian. If the people are related, and if the borders drawn are unclear, there are no barriers. It is better that way. At all events, it is impossible to redraw the borders of our states without starting a bloodbath. Uzbekistan is inhabited by 800,000 Kazakhs, another 800,000 Tajiks, plus smaller numbers of Kyrgyz and Turkmen. Several million Uzbeks live in the other four republics.

In regards to collective security, I must say in complete modesty that the agreement signed in May in Tashkent was my initiative. Russia is one of the signatories, and for me it is a guarantor of Uzbekistan's stability and security.

[Delpho] Turkey seems to want to play the role of regional leader, or even "big brother" in former Soviet Central Asia. What is your opinion?

[Karimov] The Turkish model is valid, it can enable us to move rapidly toward a market economy. However, let us no longer speak of a "big brother." In the days of communism, that expression was constantly repeated and now the people, like me, are literally allergic to it.

[Delpho] In Uzbekistan itself, Islamic envoys from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are apparently in close contact with semi-clandestine movements belonging to the same religious circles. Can you confirm that?

[Karimov] Nothing has yet been proved. However, my country lives in an open society. It is impossible to monitor everything. Each representative of the Arab world comes here freely. The Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan must agree on a common plan in the religious sphere. Turkmenistan, our neighbor, is gradually extending—too much in my view—its contacts with Iran in all spheres.

[Delpho] Anti-Russian incidents have been reported in Tashkent and in other cities in Uzbekistan. (Since 1985, 800,000 Russians have apparently left the country—LIBERATION editor's note). What security guarantees can you give the Russian community?

[Karimov] We recently adopted a law on citizenship which guarantees equality for all the communities, and after working on it for a year, I regard it as very democratic. The Russians represent 10 percent of the Uzbek population, and I cannot see in what way their safety is threatened.

[Delpho] Since the end of last year, you have legalized two opposition parties, but demonstrations are still banned. When will you allow them to take place?

[Karimov] They are not banned, but there are limits which parliament has defined. I cannot do anything about that. People must not throw stones, or burn down stores, shouting: "Down with so-and-so, down with the Tatars!" Is what we are seeing in Tajikistan, with armed extremists in the streets, an "opposition?" I do not want that to happen here.

Karimov Sets Up State Property Fund

LD1209154392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] A state property fund has been formed in Uzbekistan. It will serve to protect state interests in the process of the abolition of state control, privatization, and the formation of market relationships.

In his decree, republican President Islam Karimov set the fund the task of mobilizing the money obtained from the transformation of state enterprises and organizations into other forms of ownership, to tackle statewide problems, and to protect the population socially.

Karimov Greets World Forum of Tajiks

OW1109004792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov has sent a message to the World Forum of Tajiks in Dushanbe, which, in particular, reads: "The close ties between the Uzbeks and Tajiks based on common customs and traditions, and cultural similarities are an indisputable fact. Our states have only just become independent, but real independence has never been easy to achieve. There are many serious obstacles on the way to it. It is beyond doubt that the ancient Tajik nation, which has acquired sharp intelligence and an unflinching will over the centuries, will have enough patience and restraint to surmount today's difficulties.

"May the ghosts of our ancestors, such great scientists as Abdurrahman Jami and Alisher Navoi, protect us from the dirty games and intrigues of some political groups abroad. Let them not allow our towns to be turned to heaps of ruins and mothers and infants to be made to cry bitterly. I pray to God that peace and unity may come to the land of our brothers, the Tajiks."

Refugees From Tajikistan Turned Back in Tashkent

OW1009192492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1801 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax learned that several busloads of refugees from the Leninabad region of Tajikistan arrived in Tashkent Wednesday [9 September] evening. Among the refugees were Uzbeks, Tajiks, and representatives of the Russian-speaking population.

According to eye-witnesses, the buses were stopped in the center of Tashkent by law enforcement officials and after negotiations were sent back across the border.

Deputy Minister Signs Trade Agreement With Poland

LD1309204792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Interview with Sadyk Safayev, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, by correspondent Yu. Ulyanov, in Warsaw on 13 September; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Ulyanov] A bilateral treaty on trade and economic cooperation has been signed in Warsaw between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Poland. This international agreement provides for the resumption of contacts in the machine-building, garments, and processing industries, in addition to agriculture. It is also intended to set up joint enterprises and to organize exhibitions and fairs. Reciprocal payments will be made in freely convertible currency or on the basis of barter deals.

[Begin recording] [Ulyanov] What brought you to Poland? Was it a natural desire to develop trade and economic relations with all countries, or was it dissatisfaction at the development of such relations with CIS countries?

[Safayev] What brought us to Poland was the wish to consistently continue our republic's policy of opening Uzbekistan to the world. It is perfectly obvious that a course of self-sufficiency, some sort of closed economy and self-isolation is quite simply without prospects and dangerous. Incidentally, this is shown by the experience of our country's development in the past few decades. We now have to develop our economy on a different basis. [end recording]

Azerbaijan

Armenia Accused of Shelling Russian Villages

LD1109191292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The Armenian side is carrying out targeted shelling of Russian villages, particularly Novosaratovka, in Azerbaijan's Kedabekskiy Rayon, situated near the border with Armenia. This is what Viktor Ivanov, chairman of the Novosaratovka rural soviet, and Galina Nikolayeva, headmistress of the local school, said at a news conference at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Russia.

They intend to appeal to Vladimir Stupishin, Russian ambassador in Armenia, to render assistance in removing the belongings of the villagers that have left the village. At the same time, Ivanov and Nikolayeva consider themselves citizens of Azerbaijan. They said they intend to appeal to the Russian ambassador to mediate.

According to Ivanov Armenia's expansion, which has the aim of capturing territory belonging to Azerbaijan, is continuing. He believes that a group of independent observers to monitor the implementation of the Alma-Ata memorandum should be deployed at the Armenia-Azerbaijan border.

The assessment of Felix Mamikanyan, Armenian ambassador in Russia, concerning the information given by the Azerbaijani side on Armenian military units shelling Russian villages is that such statements are a definite policy directed at starting a conflict between Armenia and Russia. There are no Armenian armed formations that are not subordinate to the government near Kedabekskiy Rayon, which is 100 kilometers from the Nagorno-Karabakh border. It is absurd to speak about our side shelling that region, he stated. If the Russian villages in the rayon are subjected to shelling, this does not mean that the firing is being carried out by our side, the ambassador stressed.

Defense Ministry Updates Situation, Fighting

NC1109183592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces successfully maintained their combat operations aimed at clearing the Armenian brigand groups from Agdere Mardakertskiy Rayon. All strategically important hills around Chldran were captured in the last three days of clashes. Our positions in the area have been fortified. Chldran is currently under our control. More than 80 enemy troops, two tanks, and three infantry combat vehicles were destroyed in the clashes. Two of our fighters were martyred and two others were wounded.

All our positions in Agdamskiy Rayon were fired on periodically last night. Our fighters gave a deserving lesson to the enemy.

Armenia continues to violate Azerbaijan's state borders. The Armenians tried to dispatch a convoy of vehicles from Goris to Shusha last night under cover of darkness. Our artillery units in Kubatlinskiy Rayon shelled and destroyed the convoy.

Alibeyli in Tauzskiy Rayon was hit with automatic weapon and machine-gun fire early this morning. The situation in other parts of the disputed region has been relatively peaceful.

Further Update

NC1209181692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

The Armenian expeditionary corps' 4 September attack in Agdamskiy Rayon has been obstructed. However, periodic clashes are still taking place.

Armenian bandits have maintained their ferocious activities in other parts of Karabakh. Last night, Fizulinskiy Rayon was fired on from Dudukchu, and Kyshlakh, in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon, was fired on from Gadrut today. The town suffered damage due to the attack. Our positions in the southern part of Karabakh were also fired on with various types of arms. Six of our fighters were wounded. Our units have given a deserving reply to the enemy. Our artillery units have destroyed a large number of armed Armenians and a tank near Gadrut.

Positional clashes are taking place in northern Karabakh, and an enemy attack on Vaguaz has been obstructed. However, Vaguaz and [word indistinct] are still being hit with fire.

The peaceful situation in the border areas has been disrupted again. The border areas in Kedabekskiy Rayon, the border areas in Kubatlinskiy Rayon, Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, and the Badabad location in Shakhbuzskiy Rayon were hit with intense fire of various types last night. Seidlyar in Zangelanskiy Rayon was fired on with various types of arms today, destroying several houses. Agkend, Kazanchi, and Yukhary Goyeli in Zangelanskiy Rayon were also fired on periodically during the day.

The situation in the other areas has been relatively peaceful.

Azeri Forces Retreat From Lachin Corridor

LD1309182492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Fighting continues in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Karabakh News Agency reports that Armenian detachments have repelled an attack by Azeris at the village of Chldran of the Mardakertskiy Rayon. [Moscow Radio in Russian at 1800 GMT on 11 September in a similar report adds: "During three days of fighting, two tanks, three infantry

combat vehicles, and about 100 enemy servicemen were put out of action."] Early this morning, the Azeri forces attacked a section of the Lachin corridor, but had to retreat. The Information Analytical Center of the Azeri Defense Ministry says the Azeri army is keeping the initiative in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh. Liberation of the village of Drmbon by the Azeris has been announced.

As for the situation at the Armenian-Azeri border, both sides claim it is relatively quiet.

Further on Retreat

LD1109210592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2036 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by AZERINFORM correspondent Elchin Sardarov for TASS]

[Text] Baku September 11 TASS—Another attempt to transport materiel and soldiers via the Azeri Lachin region was taken last night from the Armenian side.

A total of 30 vehicles out the 35 following through the region were destroyed by the Azeri National Army, according to the specified information of the republican Defence Ministry's information-analytical center.

Fifty trucks with ethnic-Armenian residents freely left Azerbaijan in direction of the Armenian Goris region today, sources at the Azeri Defence Ministry told AZERINFORM.

In the afternoon the Azeri Armed Forces repulsed an attempt of the Armenian expeditionary corps to seize the Gozlu settlement of the republican Agdam region.

Around 300 Azeri Troops Killed During Fighting

LD1309133992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] According to the LUR agency, last week the death toll reached around 300 soldiers of the Azerbaijani Army in fighting on the territory of Mardakertskiy, Askeranskiy, and Martuninskiy rayons in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The Azerbaijani side turned down a proposal to either hand over or to exchange the bodies of the killed, fearing, according to observers, an unwelcome reaction in the republic. This is what the Azerbaijani side has done. The bodies have been buried. The absence of documents makes their identification impossible.

Fizuli Reportedly Shelled by Armenian Tanks

LD1209113192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1039 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent-TASS]

[Text] Baku, 12 September—Today, tank guns firing awakened the inhabitants of Fizuli, the administrative center of the rayon of the same name in Azerbaijan, located not far from the conflict area. According to the republic's Defense Ministry, motorized subunits of the Armenian expeditionary corps opened fire on the small town from the Azerbaijani village of Dudukchu, captured on the previous day.

Defense Ministry: Alma-Ata Accords Being Followed

NC1109144292 Yerevan SNARK in English 1232 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, September 11 SNARK—Leila Yunusova, the head of the Centre of Information and Analysts at the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence, has declared to the Azerbaijan independent News Agency "TURAN" that the Republic of Azerbaijan follows the decisions of the Alma-Ata agreement on ceasing the fire at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border signed on September. Yunusova has mentioned that as Azerbaijan didn't sign the document on ceasing the fire in Nagorno-Karabakh the accusations of the Armenian side are groundless. The head of the information service has said that Azerbaijan is ready to cease the military actions in the case of the bringing out all the Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan.

Further on Cease-Fire Implementation

LD1109164692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] NeGa reports that according to Armenian sources during the past 24 hours the Alma-Ata memorandum on the cessation of military actions on the Armenian-Azerbaijan border has been implemented on the whole. There has been fire from automatic weapons against populated points only in Goris and Kafan rayons of Armenia.

Branding of Armenia as an Aggressor Demanded

OW1109140192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan has appealed to prestigious international organizations, first and foremost the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to brand Armenia as an aggressor. A statement circulated in Baku by the Azerbaijanian president's press service in this regard contains an assertion that Armenia is "ignoring" the current cease-fire agreement, continuing to subject to fire attacks Azerbaijanian settlements both in the border zone and in locations in Azerbaijan hundreds of kilometers away from the border.

Recently, many casualties and great damage was inflicted on the villages in Akstafa, Agdam and Zangelan regions of Azerbaijan as a result of intense fire attacks from "Grad" MRL systems.

The statement maintains that Azerbaijan is prepared to cease fire throughout the entire Azerbaijanian-Armenian border, given the opposing side also showed good will and sensible control mechanism were effected. Armenia, however, "in putting its signature under cease fire agreements,

each time is violating its commitments, and it has already exhausted the credibility accorded it," the statement noted.

Baku believe that "unequivocally expressed adjudication by the international community" in regards to Armenia's aggressive actions could become an "compelling factor and contribute to a speedy settlement of the conflict".

President Warns of New Azerbaijani Offensive

LD1109181192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has expressed profound concern in connection with reports coming in about the massing of troops and hardware in Agdamskiy rayon of Azerbaijan, which borders on Nagorno-Karabakh, the SNARK agency reports.

Such actions signify preparations for a new offensive by the Azerbaijani army against Nagorno-Karabakh, the memorandum distributed today by the president's press service notes. The document says that Armenia continues to insist on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Georgia

Fighting Continues in Abkhazia; Cease-Fire Agreed

Heavy Arms Withdrawn From Front Lines

OW1109170692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As IF [INTERFAX] was told at the Sukhumi Commandant's Office, according to an agreement reached by the trilateral commission on inspection and control in Abkhazia, by 5 p.m. September 11 the Georgian side fully withdrew its heavy materiel from the front line positions on the Gumista river. Separation of troops is being observed by representatives of the commission and will be completed by 10 p.m.

Not a single armed incident was registered in the conflict zone in Abkhazia Friday, the headquarters of the Abkhaz Interim Board said. The situation in the Gagra region remained calm all day long.

State Council Announces Mobilization

OW1109191092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Abkhaz Defense Headquarters, in the Gagra region of Abkhazia the positions of Abkhaz armed units have been under machinegun and automatic rifle fire since Friday [11 September] morning and as of 17:30. The Headquarters said that according to intelligence reports, the Georgian State Council announced mobilization of the non-Georgian male population in Gagra.

The same source says that at present out of 8 regions of the autonomous republic the Abkhaz forces are controlling part of the Sukhumi, Gagra and Ochamchirskiy regions, and the Gudauta region with the population of 60,000 (60% of the Abkhaz territory).

The defense center of the Ochamchirskiy region—the miners' village of Tkvarcheli (the population is 20,000) besieged by troops of the Georgian State Council—has not been supplied with food and medicine during the past three weeks. A member of the Tkvarcheli Volunteer Headquarters who asked anonimity described military operations carried out by the Abkhaz side in the Ochamchirskiy region as a guerrilla war.

Disengagement of Units Begins

LD1109185192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1720 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Gudauta, 11 Sep—Disengagement of Georgian and Abkhazian military units along the river Gumista and withdrawal to specially designated areas began today, in line with the agreements reached yesterday by the control and inspection commission.

There was an exchange of fire in this sector as recently as last night; Abkhazians opened up with automatic weapons, and the Georgians responded with artillery and tank rounds. However, a cease-fire agreement was ensured through vigorous intervention by the control and inspection commission and by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev, who flew to Sukhumi this morning.

Some of the members of the Russian commission flew to Gudauta today to oversee compliance with the agreements. Yuriy Vorobyev, head of the Russian peacekeeping mission and also deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Emergencies, told ITAR-TASS that "the most important thing is that today the sides have begun to implement the agreements."

A trilateral observers' group started work at the same time the disengagement got under way. The situation on the railways is being studied, and preparations are in hand to restore traffic in two or three days, once certain sections of track have been swept for mines.

Formation began today of a special rapid-response group made up of Russian, Georgian, and Abkhazian units and tasked with disarming groups violating the cease-fire. However, all this work is proceeding with extraordinary difficulty and requires, above all, that the sides genuinely desire a halt to the bloodshed.

Disengagement To End 12 Sep

LD1109220192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The disengagement of the opposing Georgian and Abkhazian sides is due to be completed by 2200 on 12 September. It should be implemented along the full length of the front. Special rapid-response detachments are being formed, consisting of representatives of Russian and Georgian armed formations. Their duties include putting a stop to any provocation, using all means available to them. However, a correspondent from the ANI agency has reported that fighting was still going on this afternoon. On the night of 10-11 September, joint armed formations of the Abkhazian Guard and the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus attacked Gagra. The Georgian State Council press center reported that the attack was repulsed. One Georgian guardsman was wounded.

Meanwhile, according to a NEGA report, Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, has sent a telegram to Russian Procurator General Valentin Stepankov. The telegram protests the initiating of criminal proceedings against the leaders of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus.

Mountain Groups Said Under Control

LD1109224392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The press service of the Abkhazian plenipotentiary in the Russian Federation reports: The Georgian media have alleged that the armed formations of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus are becoming uncontrollable. These allegations do not correspond to the facts. A commander of the Abkhazian national guard said on the telephone from Gudauta that all the armed formations of the mountain people are completely under control and are acting under the direct leadership of the state committee for the defense of the Republic of Abkhazia. Allegations of the kind mentioned above are nothing but nonsense, the press service of the Abkhazian plenipotentiary in Russia says.

Ardzinba Accuses Georgia of Provocation

OW1209114092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Abkhazian leaders can find a common language with all ethnic groups populating the republic if no one interferes from outside," Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba told IF [INTERFAX] on Friday [11 September]. He said that "the peace and tranquility in Abkhazia since the brief conflict in 1989 provides vivid proof of this".

He also noted that the Georgian leaders keep provoking the conflict. "Most of the Georgians living in Abkhazia are against this conflict, but they have been intimidated by the Georgian militants," he said.

Georgia Accused of Massive Attack

OW1209150892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of Abkhazia's envoy plenipotentiary in Moscow reports that in violation of the Moscow accords and of the ceasefire agreement, Georgian formations launched a massive attack from helicopters on the villages of Tamysh, Tsagera and Adzyubzha in the Ochamchira region of Abkhazia.

The planes of the Russian Air Force which, according to the agreement, guard Abkhazia's air space, take off with delays and fail to curb air raids.

Besides that, last night the Georgian units carried out an attack involving armored vehicles on Abkhazia's international contingent. As a result, two Abkhazian fighters were wounded.

Caucasian Federation To Withdraw

OW1209150792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [11 September] night, President of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples told IF [INTERFAX] that the Confederation will withdraw its volunteers from Abkhazia. This decision was taken following the attainment of the ceasefire agreement in Sukhumi.

Musa Shanibov said that the schedule of withdrawal will be drawn by Abkhazia's Defence Headquarters. He noted, however, that if the conflict is escalated still further, the Confederation "reserves for itself the right to suspend the withdrawal and send additional contingents to Abkhazia".

N. Caucasus Volunteers Ready To Leave

OW1209153992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The North Caucasian volunteers will be returning to Russia disarmed, the volunteers' commanders announced during their recent meeting with Russia's representatives to the Control and Inspection Commission for Abkhazia.

The Russian inspectors report that the North Caucasian formations have expressed readiness to return home the moment the Abkhazian side tells them to do so, leaving behind all their armaments. The schedule and procedure of the withdrawal will be discussed during the next round of talks between Georgia, Russia and Abkhazia September 15.

Five border cordons have been set up on the Russian-Georgian border in the Krasnodar territory to check on the return of the North Caucasian volunteers. It is not ruled out, however, that some of the formations will use other almost inaccessible sections of the border up in the mountains. In experts' estimate, if they do, control over the withdrawal of the volunteers from Abkhazia will hardly be possible without arms.

Sigua: Combat Operations Nearly Over

OW1209153292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1444 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's acting Premier Tengiz Sigua, who heads the Georgian delegation in the tripartite control and inspection commission for Abkhazia, told the Georgian Government on Saturday [12 September] that combat operations in Abkhazia "have practically ended". He said that according to his sources, the conflicting sides have been disengaged to the distance of 3 kilometers earlier agreed upon.

In the Gagra region the situation is about the same, he said. In the Gudauta region the railway is being demined, mostly by Russian field engineers. This work is to be completed by September 14-15, said Sigua.

Sigua Demands Confederation Withdrawal

LD1209211392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The NEGA agency has reported that, speaking at a session of the Georgian State Council, Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said that the conditions for the withdrawal of formations of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus from Abkhazia remain in force.

This process, the Georgian side demands, should end by 15 September at the latest. The Russo-Georgian mobile formations were set up specially to monitor this process, Sigua said. If the Confederation's detachments fail to comply with the order on the withdrawal from Abkhazia, the order on their destruction will come into force, he stressed.

Georgian Helicopters Fire on Changina

LD1309102192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0854 GMT 13 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Gudauta (Abkhazia), 13 Sep—Despite the fact that the opposing sides have in the main been separated, the situation in Abkhazia remains extremely complex. According to information provided by military observers, the populated locality of Changina was fired upon by Georgian helicopters at 1230 on 12 September.

Yesterday evening unknown persons fired automatic weapons in the direction of an observers' post in the vicinity of a Russian air defense missile regiment base in Gudauta, and at 2330, unknown armed persons in a motor vehicle attempted to seize the post. As a result of the exchange of fire the attackers' vehicle was put out of action. There is no information on casualties.

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Grigoriy Kondratyev, a member of the Control and Inspection Commission in Abkhazia, is due today to leave by air to clarify information about the firing on the populated locality of Changina, and about monitoring the situation at the scenes of the incidents.

Observers believe that attempted provocations are to be noted on both the Georgian and the Abkhazian sides. Independent irregular armed formations are active in the conflict region. Robberies are continuing. The normal functioning of enterprises and organizations and of transport is paralyzed. An acute shortage of foodstuffs is making itself felt.

Sukhumi Commander on Caucasian 'Atrocities'

OW1309124992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1217 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Police general Guia Gulua, commander of Abkhazia's capital Sukhumi, has told IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent that last night outside the city of Gagra fighters from the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples launched an attack on Georgian guardsmen, wounding 8 of them.

Reports from the village of Eshera say that "Confederation fighters staged atrocities there". According to G. Gulua, 4 women were raped and dwellings belonging to Georgians were subjected to looting.

In Sukhumi on Saturday talks were held between the Georgian faction of Abkhazia's parliament and Russian MPs who offered to serve as mediators in contacts with Abkhazian MPs.

Robbery, Looting in Nizhnyaya Eshera

LD1309131692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 13 Sep 92

[By "freelance" ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 13 Sep—The Sukhumi Town Directorate of Internal Affairs today revealed to journalists who are in the town that instances of robbery and looting against the local Georgian population have increased during the past few days in the village of Nizhnyaya Eshera of the Sukhumi rayon. According to militia data, the attacks are being carried out by volunteer fighters from the Northern Caucasus. Arson attacks on the houses of citizens of Georgian nationality and the theft of motor vehicles have been observed.

Around 250 people, mostly women and children, have arrived in Sukhumi from Nizhnyaya Eshera. They told journalists they managed to leave the village with the help of Russian servicemen. According to them, at present citizens of Georgian nationality, mostly men, remain in the village, as the combatants of the Confederation of Mountain People of the Caucasus will not allow them to leave.

Helicopters Rocket Villages

OW1309160692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The armed confrontation between the Georgians and Abkhazians is going on in the suburbs of Gagra. According to the press service of the Abkhazian parliament, gun and machine gun firing had not stoppped over the previous 24 hours. Two fighters of the international home guard of Abkhazia were wounded.

Mi-24 helicopters of the Georgian State Council attacked the villages of Tamysh and Tsagera of Ochamchira region with unguided rockets at 13.30 on September 12. The press service of the Abkhazian parliament managed to learn that beginning yesterday's evening persons of Abkhazian nationality are being arrested in Ochamchira which is under control of the State Council's forces. More than 30 men have been arrested.

Disengagement of forces has been completed in the region of the river Gumista. Russian paratroopers, Abkhazian home guard fighters, and representatives of the Georgian State Council have taken the situation under their control. A meeting of the representatives of the Abkhazian parliament, Georgian faction of the Abkhazian parliament, and the Russian parliament is scheduled to take place today's evening. The meeting will be devoted to the settlement of the conflict.

Abkhaz Group: Moscow Accords Violated

OW1309162692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sunday [13 September] the "Democratic Abkhazia" (a parliamentary faction expressing the interests of Georgia) announced a statement blaming the Abkhazian side for violations of the Moscow agreements and making it responsible for crimes in the region of the village of Lower Eshery which is under control of the Abkhazian insurgents and volunteers of the Confederation of the Caucasian Mountain Peoples after the Georgian armed formations had been withdrawn.

The parliamentarians and the press center of the Georgian permanent mission report about facts of robbery, pillage, massacre, and murder of local inhabitants of the Georgian nationality. Stressing that these crimes are being committed by the Abkhazian home guardians and their supporters, the parliamentary faction declares about the threat to the settlement of the situation in the republic.

Abkhaz Group Accuses Georgia of Torture

OW1309164192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the representatives of the Abkhazian Popular Front, the volunteers of the Confederation of the Caucasian mountain peoples being imprisoned by the Georgian State Council's forces are being tortured. The presidium of the Popular Front adopted a statement in Gudauta on September 11 expressing protest against cruelty in respect to the prisoners of war.

The statement points out that the volunteers from the Chechen Republic, Kabarda, Ossetia, Adygeya are being "mercilessly tortured". Recently three of them have been executed after "inhuman tortures". The Georgian leadership assessed the participation of the volunteers in the conflict as an intrusion in the inner affairs of Georgia and announced them illegitimate, the document states.

Abkhaz Detachments Take Georgian Hostages

LD1309172692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Late on the night of 12 September, armed Abkhaz detachments burst into Georgian villages in a suburb of Pitsunda and took 30 civilian hostages, Gagra military commander (Badriy Pertskhelanya) told RIA. By today, 15 of them had been freed in exchange for Abkhazians detained by the Georgian side. However, 15 other Georgian villagers are still held prisoner.

Factions Agree on Cease-Fire

LD1409030292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0000 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By "freelance" ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 14 Sep—The meeting of representatives of the Georgian and Abkhazian factions of the Abkhazian parliament in Sukhumi on 13 September lasted five hours. It was held with the mediation of two Russian deputies. A protocol was signed at the end of the meeting, which took place in a frank atmosphere. The protocol states that they accept the final document of the Moscow meeting on 3 September as the basis for further activity.

The sides have reached accords to set up mixed deputy working commissions of the parliament of Abkhazia to assist in carrying out the decisions of the commission for monitoring and inspection regarding the cease-fire, the posting of troops and their withdrawal from Sukhumi and all the conflict zones, as well as other decisions of the

commission. The sides will assist in creating conditions for the resumption of the activity of the lawful bodies of power in Abkhazia.

This protocol of the conciliation deputy group of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia was signed by four Georgian and five Abkhazian deputies. In the next few days, contacts between the deputies of the two factions, which are in Sukhumi and Gudauta, will be continued.

New Abkhazian Commandant Appointed

OW1209113592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [11 September], the Abkhazian State Defence Committee appointed this committee's Vice-Chairman Viktor Kakaliya to the post of Abkhazia's commandant. Concurrently, Kakaliya will continue to perform his duties as vice-chairman of the committee. Earlier, Kakaliya was the commander of an Abkhazian interior regiment.

According to sources, close to the State Defence Committee, "Kakaliya's appointment to a higher post refutes rumours about his poor performance as the commander of the interior regiment.

Abkhazian Parliamentarian Calls for Dissolution

LD1309091992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The Abkhazian Parliament will commence its work tomorrow. Tamaz Nadareyshvili, deputy chairman of the parliament, stated the day before that deputies themselves are to blame for such a complicated political situation in Abkhazia which led to the armed conflict. He said that the corps of deputies no longer has a moral right to execute legislative power. Nadareyshvili has called upon all deputies to make the decision at the session on the self- dissolution of parliament.

Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Appeals to Yeltsin

LD1409100692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The Abkhazian Supreme Soviet should assemble today in Sukhumi. Because of this, its presidium has issued an appeal to Russian President Yeltsin saying that the assembly is being held on the direct orders of the Georgian State Council and thus does not have the quorum required under the Abkhazian constitution. The assembly is due to decide that parliament is to be dissolved, which is how the Georgian State Council is attempting to forcibly overthrow the constitutional authorities of Abkhazia under a cloak of legality, which is one of the main reasons for its occupation of the republic.

The appeal requests Boris Yeltsin to act to make the Georgian State Council comply with Article 10 of the Final Document, which stresses the need for the legitimate Abkhazian authorities to resume functioning by 15 September. A full withdrawal by all Georgian armed forces from Abkhazia is an essential condition for these legitimate authorities to resume their work, the appeal by the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Presidium stresses.

'Democratic Abkhazia' Plans Parliament Session

OW1409105492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1018 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reports from Georgia's capital, last night was quiet in Sukhumi and its suburbs.

The Georgian faction "Democratic Abkhazia" of the Republican Supreme Soviet has not given up yet the idea of holding an emergency session of Parliament in Sukhumi on Monday. As IF [INTERFAX] has learned from faction representatives, Abkhaz lawmakers have also been invited.

On the agenda—the political situation in Abkhazia and action on the understandings, reached by the conflicting sides in Moscow and Sukhumi. According to latest reports, legislators do not plan to debate the Parliament's self-dissolution issue.

The Presidium of Abkhazia's Supreme Soviet, consisting primarily of Abkhaz deputies, has declared that the Georgian faction, which does not have a simple majority, "has no right to adopt decisions on convening a Parliamentary session".

At a meeting on Sunday, Gagra residents decided to form groups of militia from among the local population. The meeting claimed that was necessary because "merceneries from the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Nations continue fighting".

Local militia batallions will include men, aged from 20 to 45, among them not only Georgians but also Russians, Estonians, and even Koreans living in the city.

Estonia

Russia Reportedly Destroys Nuclear Submarine Base

LD1309131792 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1030 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Russia has secretly destroyed and practically abandoned its large nuclear submarine base in Paldiski, Estonia, says Swedish-British journalist Pelle Neroth, who last week bribed his way into the Russian nuclear submarine base, at which there are also nuclear reactors producing submarine fuel. This is what Pelle Neroth says concerning what it looked like inside the Paldiski base, just outside Tallinn:

[Neroth] Everything is totally destroyed. There are slabs of concrete left, but they have burned the buoys, they have tried to burn the buoys. They have destroyed every single office, and in the harbor training college, they have even destroyed every single map, torn them all, and chopped up the chairs. As for life belts and gas masks, which are some kind of sign that people once worked here, they have broken the glass in the gas masks and cut up the life belts. They have even overturned remaining railway cars and torn up the asphalt, large blocks of asphalt, because they wanted to get to the copper cables to sell them. They have (?torpedo tubes) stacked up and cut up the way you cut sausage, masses of small pieces.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have they even destroyed ships?

[Neroth] (?No), the submarine (?harbor I am talking about), a couple of kilometers north from here, there is a ship harbor, and there they have sunk a couple of ships. According to the guard who was there, they sank them because copper robbers had taken all the copper. One can see the masts, one can see half the ship; the other half is underwater. There are perhaps another 10 ships, most of which—we did not visit each ship—but each one we looked into had all the equipment destroyed. They had torn out all the equipment, instruments and everything, and doors were burned. As we were walking about taking pictures, a guard came along and asked what we were up to. It turned out that he was very friendly. He was the only guard left on the base; all the others had left. He was wearing a track suit.

[Correspondent] He was Russian?

[Neroth] He was a Russian soldier. He was the only sign of the Russian military we saw during the entire visit to Paldiski. He was wearing a Russian military cap.

[Correspondent] There are at least two so-called training reactors in Paldiski that have been used to manufacture radioactive fuel for nuclear submarines, and training reactors for submarine crews. What has happened to them?

[Neroth] It is said that these still exist. There are two guarded installations, the submarine school and the actual concrete building where they have these [word indistinct] (?or) training reactors, and these are guarded so we could not get in there. [end recording]

[Correspondent Anders Eriksson in Tallinn] The reports of the destruction at the Paldiski base are not surprising. For one thing, the bases that the former Soviet Army has left so far have been in a pitiful state. Anything that could be sold at all has been taken and the rest has been smashed up. Also, other visitors have previously borne witness to the fact that the Paldiski base has been in poor condition and shabby. However, judging from this tale, it now seems that the Russian Army is prepared to give up its claims on the Paldiski base completely, and that would be a great success for Estonia. Paldiski has been a bone of contention in the negotiations for a troop withdrawal. Should Russia give up its previous claim on the base, there will be a greater chance of finding a settlement acceptable to both sides.

Within the base area there is the former Soviet Union's only training institute for submarine crews with simulators. If Paldiski is abandoned, that equipment will probably be transferred to other naval bases. [passage omitted]

Baltic Premiers Meet, Sign Economic Agreements

OW1109175992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1618 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government delegations of the three Baltic states headed by prime ministers Ivars Godmanis of Latvia, Tiit Vahi of Estonia and Aleksandras Abisala of Lithuania have had talks in Tallinn Friday [11 September] regarding the issue of their economic cooperation. The participants signed bilateral agreements on non-trade hard currency operations.

The premiers abstained from signing the protocols prepared by the Estonian delegation providing for cooperation of the three countries in visa and customs policy, maintaining that it would not be advisable to envisage any specific steps in this regard for the time being since the countries are initiating their cooperation from the zero level; therefore there is no need to sign a document which would merely state the parties' intentions. At the same time, the sides did express their bent to coordinate their visa and customs policies.

The participants of the meeting discussed options for Latvia's payment for the power it received from Estonia and agreed that payment should be effected in Deutsche marks.

The sides also discussed procedures for mutual accounting. They resolved that by the time Latvia and Lithuania introduce their own national currencies, lats and litas, they will perform their mutual accounting with Estonia in hard currency. Following their adoption of national currencies, the sides will conclude a separate agreement in this regard.

The premiers of the Baltic countries discussed options for opening their correspondent accounts in all the banks of the Baltic countries, as well as participating in currency auctions.